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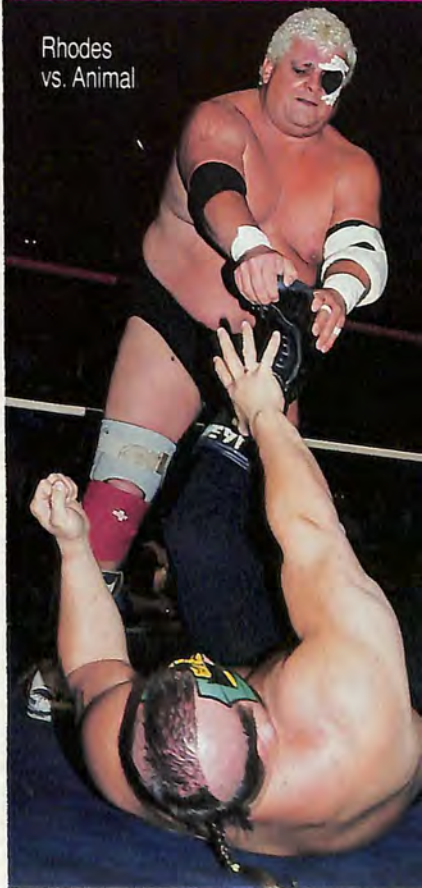
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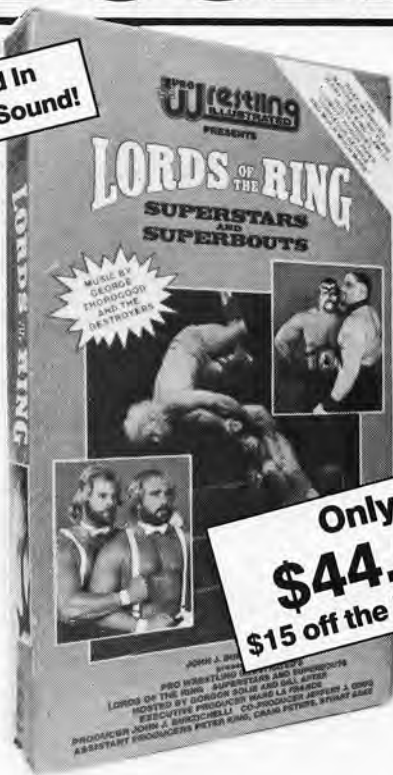
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Wrestling

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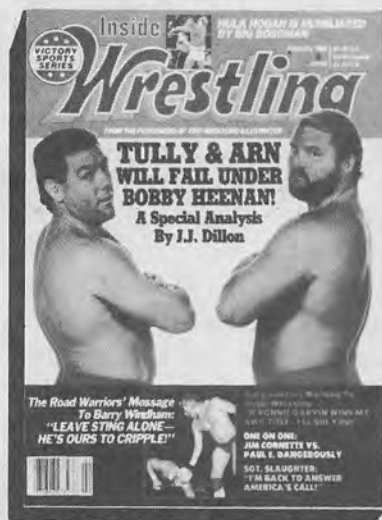
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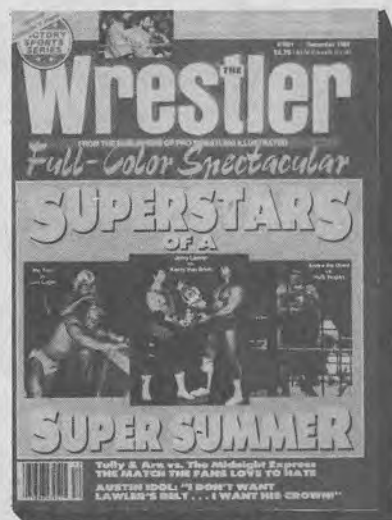
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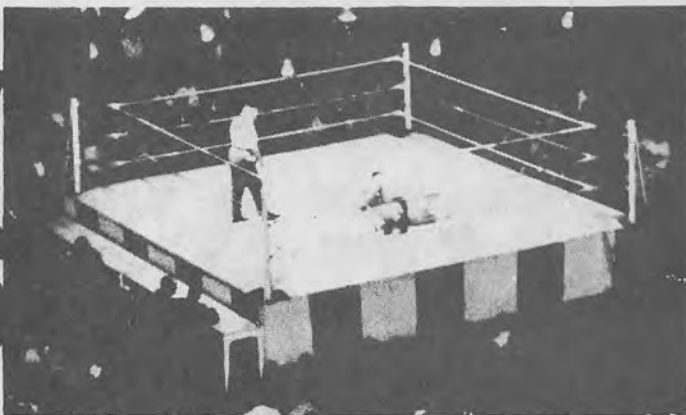
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SINCERELY YOURS

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"BRAIN" SURGERY?

Your February 1989 issue featured the article, "Tully & Arn Will Fail Under Bobby Heenan! A Special Analysis By J.J. Dillon." James J. Dillon's harsh scrutiny is true: Heenan has managed great wrestlers and granted

well because they were originally singles competitors. Now under Heenan, their chances of winning the WWF World tag team title are slim. Heenan will probably engage them in useless feuds, like Paul Jones did with The Powers of Pain.

teams such as the Rougeaus, The Hart Foundation, The Rockers, The Bolsheviks, the Powers, and current WWF champs Demolition.

Once they ditch Heenan and go their own way, a victory over Demolition is inevitable, and a long title reign is expected.

PETE AMUROSO
Garfield, NJ



Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson will win the WWF tag team title only after they dump their manager Bobby Heenan, writes reader Pete Amuroso.

them ample title shots, but has never had a WWF championship. He does not use proper strategy when preparing for a title match, and he often pays for it. This will be the same for Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson.

As the NWA World tag team champions, Tully and Arn did exceptionally

In the NWA, Anderson and Blanchard held their titles—and their own—against such teams as The Road Warriors, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, The Midnight Express, The Shepherders, and The Powers of Pain. The same success could be attained in the WWF, because they can easily defeat

RACIST REPLY

This letter is in response to the criticism of Col. DeBeers by Amanda Nelligan ("Sincerely Yours") in the February 1989 issue of *Inside Wrestling*.

I am also upset by DeBeers' racist remarks. But, unlike you, I recognize that because he lives and works in the United States, he has the perfect right to say them. Someone once said, "I



Diamond Dallas Page manages Col. DeBeers, a man who holds racist beliefs. As abhorrent as reader Andrew Meyer finds those views, he defends DeBeers' right to express them.

may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." Freedom of speech is one of the basic rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

The same goes for the case of Robert Fuller. He may be a racist pig, but as a citizen of the United States, he has the right to be.

I am no racist, but I heartily defend everyone's right to their opinions, even if I do not agree with them.

ANDREW MEYER
Lincoln, NE

ROCK 'N' ROLL LIVES

I am writing in response to the article in the January 1989 issue of *Inside Wrestling*, "The Rock 'n' Roll Express Must Decide: Split Up Or Shut Up!"

Well, for your information, The Rock 'n' Roll Express *needs* to stay together—forever!

I think they are wrestling better now than they have in a very long time. They have been tagging in and out of the ring and showing their double-teaming skills like never before. They even have more exciting interviews lately since Robert Gibson started talking for the team. Because of this, he and Ricky have been more hyped up than they've ever been!

If they split up again, it would be the second biggest mistake in the history of professional wrestling, the first being the *first* split-up of the Express. When they broke up last August, I was devastated and cried for weeks. I prayed with all my heart for them to

get back together; when they finally did, I was happier than I had been in a very long time.

Now that they are back together, I think you and everyone else who is criticizing them should get off their backs. I think you all owe the Rock 'n' Rollers an apology for saying they should split up again. They love the fans too much to ever hurt us again or to ever let us down again. I am one fan that will never give up on them; nor will I ever desert them. Rock 'n' roll lives, and so does The Rock 'n' Roll Express!

DIANE MARTIN
Savannah, GA

WHAT'S THE DEAL, WWF?

I don't know what the WWF is trying to prove. Not only are they destroying the reputation of pro wrestling as a sport, but they have taken some of the finest wrestlers around, drawn them in with big bucks and national exposure, and made them look like jerks.

A few examples:

● Ted DiBiase. This is one of the best wrestlers going. DiBiase can take a beating and come back twice as hard. He has what it takes to beat anyone on a given night. So what does the WWF do with such a great wrestling talent? They make him tint his hair, wear glittery suits, and have a so-called "bodyguard" follow him around. Anyone who remembers DiBiase's matches in the UWF and NWA knows this guy doesn't need any help to win bouts. I don't know where they dug up Virgil, but I don't think it was DiBiase's idea.

● Terry Taylor. He's been hated by the fans for the last few years, but that doesn't change the fact that Taylor is a fine wrestler. Does anybody really believe this guy needs Bobby Heenan to teach him how to wrestle? Or that he asked to be called the "Red Rooster"?

● One Man Gang. A guy hated by the public and feared and respected by wrestlers for his strong-arm tactics and brute force. Now he's Akeem, and is nothing more than a big clown. His reputation is down the drain.

(Continued on page 52)



The Rock 'n' Roll Express have had trouble deciding whether they want to stay together, but reader Diane Martin is certain she wants them to remain teammates.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

The turmoil following the Jerry Lawler-Kerry Von Erich title-unification match has not died down. It may never. Referee Marty Miller's decision to halt the SuperClash III bout because of the cut on Kerry's head was one of the most controversial—and gutsiest—calls ever.

Von Erich had Lawler flat on his back with a clawhold stopping the flow of blood to his head. The blood oozing from Kerry's wound didn't stop him. He was drawing strength from the sight of Lawler's eyes rolling into his head. Victory was seemingly his. If Lawler weren't so exhausted, he might have summoned the strength to tell the referee, "I quit!"

Miller waited for Lawler to do just that. He knew if Lawler didn't submit soon, he would have to make the toughest decision of his career. Von Erich's cut was the worst he had ever seen. The scant seconds seemed like minutes as he waited for Lawler to make his job easier. Finally, Miller acted. He stopped the match. He was right to so.

This is not a replay of the Lex Luger-Ric Flair Baltimore Bash, as I've heard some people suggest. Luger was robbed by a technicality in the Maryland Commission's rulebook that stated the match had to be stopped at the first sight of blood. That was a trickle; this was a flood.

Kerry needed medical assistance. Badly. Miller's first responsibility was to the safety of the wrestlers. There would be plenty of opportunities for Von Erich to get back at Lawler later on. It was Miller's responsibility to make sure he was around to get them.

Von Erich can scream about the decision all he wants. He can scream about the politics that put his fate in the hands of AWA officials. But when all is said and done, what Kerry lost is something he can always regain. What he might have lost had the match continued, I'd rather not talk about.



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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David
Rosenbaum**

ONE OF THESE days, we'll have another WWF World champion—like Bruno Sammartino or Bob Backlund—who isn't paranoid, devious, untrustworthy, or schizophrenic. For now, however, we'll just have to wait.

Exactly one year ago, my column in the April 1988 issue of *Inside Wrestling* dealt with Hulk Hogan's decision to turn down Ted DiBiase's seven-figure offer for the WWF belt. Hogan wasn't acting in the best interests of the fans or the title, he was acting in the best interests of himself: By retaining the belt—and his image—he figured to make much more money over the long run.

One year later, Randy Savage has that mighty WWF belt strapped around his waist and—wouldn't you know it!—the paranoia he displayed so prominently during his Intercontinental championship days has resurfaced.

Now, before we go any further, let's get one thing straight:

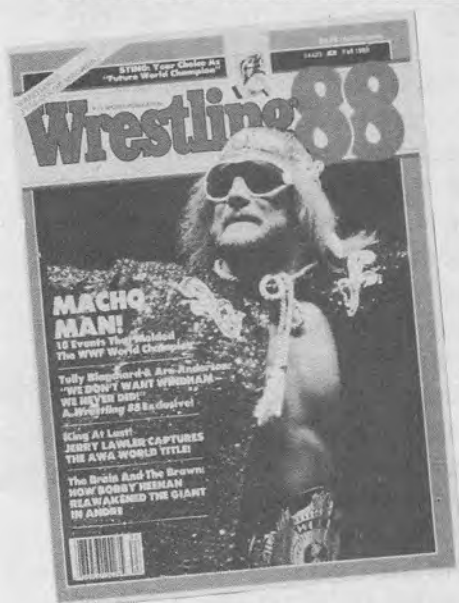
We will see a Randy Savage vs. Hulk Hogan main event at WrestleMania V, and possibly before then. That's the direction things are going, and there seems to be no reversing course. Savage is absolutely convinced that Hogan is after his woman. When Hogan grabs Elizabeth and gives her a long hug, he does nothing to dispel Savage's suspicions. And Hogan, who desperately wants a title shot but knows it would be ungrateful to ask for one, would welcome a match against his so-called friend.

There is something seriously wrong when the two most popular men in the sport have so many glaringly negative qualities. It is absolutely scary to imagine that Hogan and Savage are role mod-

(Continued on page 62)

GO FIRST CLASS!

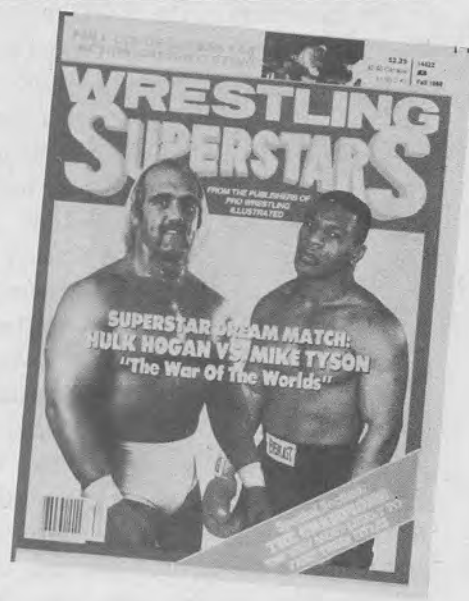
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WHEN YOU TURN to the ratings on page 64, you'll notice that *Inside Wrestling*, along with our entire family of publications, recognizes three world champions: Ric Flair (NWA), Randy Savage (WWF), and Jerry Lawler (AWA).

The status of the NWA championship as a world title is indisputable. The federation is 85 years old. Flair is one of the acknowledged masters of the sport, has worn the belt for most of this decade, and has defended his title against virtually all the sport's top stars at one time or another.

The recognition of the WWF championship as a world title came under review in these publications about six



Bob Backlund

years ago, when Bob Backlund was WWF champion. At the time, we took world-title status away from the WWF mainly because of its then-regional (mainly Northeast) stature. Our "Ratings Analysis" in the September 1983 issue of *The Wrestler* noted that "the WWF, which was formed in 1963, is recognized as the largest regional title in the world, something more than the Mid-Atlantic title, but less than the NWA World belt." Actually, it wasn't until the October 1985 issues of *The Wrestler* and *Inside Wrestling* that we re-elevated the WWF title and again recognized it as a world title. At the time, Hulk Hogan defending the WWF title, and with the WWF expanding at incredible rates worldwide, it seemed patently wrong *not* to view the WWF title as a world championship.

The AWA title has been a world title since 1960, for as long as the federation has been in existence. So for most of the past three decades, there have been (at least as far as our family of publications is concerned) three world titles in the sport. That discounts, of course, the few years up to 1985 that the WWF lost its world-title status.

But since 1985, the WWF and the NWA have grown to become the indisputable dual promotional kings in the world of wrestling. The AWA has remained a strong number three, but there have been those critics and fans who have felt that world title status ought to be limited to just two federations in order to simplify the championship situation in the sport. That would mean devaluing the AWA World title, which is something that current AWA World champion Jerry Lawler—surprise, surprise!—feels very strongly about. "It's *absurd* to take world-title status

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

away from the AWA," Lawler told me during a recent trip to Memphis, "particularly when you consider that alone, the AWA title has had a German World champion, Otto Wanz, and a Japanese World champion, Jumbo Tsuruta. I understand that the line has to be drawn somewhere, but where your magazines have it drawn now—three world titles—is fine. Obviously, for a lot of reasons, I feel that the AWA World title is the finest, and I'd place my

championship up against any other in the sport."

I told Lawler that the editors of our magazines had, a few years ago, actually considered devaluing the AWA title and recognizing only two world titles in the sport.

"But you didn't," Lawler said, "and I think that's an important fact to remember. Back then, the NWA and the WWF were overwhelming wrestling. Nobody can deny that. It was probably easy for you guys to think that every other promotion was going to fall by the wayside and get steamrolled by the big two, so the idea of taking away world-title status probably seemed logical. Fortunately, there were plenty of us around who weren't about to give up so easily. And you guys at the magazines, you wisely sat back and decided to play a wait-and-see game. That was, obviously, a good move, because the AWA has grown to become bigger and better than ever."

Indeed, the AWA's December 13 SuperClash III, wrestling's first non-WWF, non-NWA pay-per-view program, is likely to lead to more AWA pay-per-view projects. Co-promotional agreements with the World Class, CWA, and Continental areas have brought back the concept of the traveling champion, something that helped catapult Ric Flair to national prominence in the early part of this decade.

"It's no secret that the AWA has suffered something of an image beating since the WWF and NWA grew to such large national proportions," Lawler said, "but to count the AWA down and out is patently absurd. To say that the AWA doesn't belong in the same league as the WWF or the NWA is also absurd—SuperClash III proved that. No, if you ask me, the AWA is on the move like never before, and any talk about the federation being a sorry and distant number three is simply senseless babble."

Lawler can be excused his strong sense of federal loyalty, but in essence he is correct. The expected swallowing-up of all other federations by the WWF and NWA has not materialized, and that's good news for the sport in general. Monopolization breeds content and laziness; competition breeds improvement and excellence. The sense of competition in wrestling is stronger than I've seen it since I began with *Inside Wrestling* in mid-1981. It can mean only good things for the sport in 1989 and the years to come. □

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Slant-Eyed Slaughter

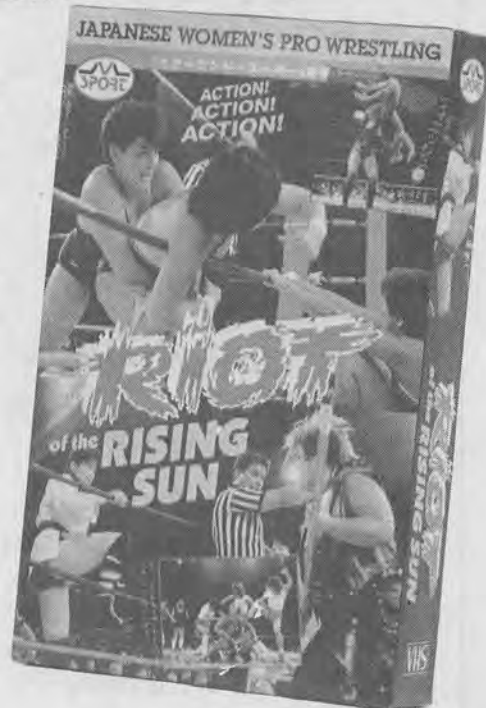
(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

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- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

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NAMES MAKING



JIM CORNETTE

THE MANAGERIAL WAR between **Paul E. Dangerously** and **Jim Cornette** is far from over. If anything, the Starrcade '88 showdown between both **Midnight Express** teams further fanned the flames of this raging NWA inferno.

Cornette's wish to "give America a Christmas present by kicking that punk Dangerously's butt" never came true, but the fans on hand in Norfolk, Virginia, and the people watching nationwide on pay-per-view TV, were treated to an outstanding match between the two feuding factions. **Stan Lane** pinned **Randy Rose** after just over 17 minutes of action to win the match for Cornette's duo ... but there was some controversy involved.

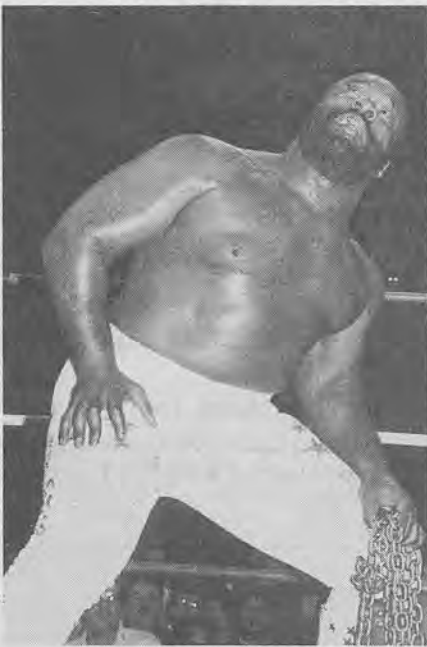
Lane had Rose covered for the pin when Paul E. whacked "Sweet Stan" with his portable phone. After Rose reversed the cover, referee **Teddy Long** started counting, but stopped the count at two when he saw the phone. Then, when Long asked the crowd if they saw Dangerously use the phone, **Bobby Eaton** entered the ring. He and Lane executed the "double-goose" (a tripping/clothesline combination) on Rose, and Lane covered Rose for the pin. Dangerously and

Dennis Condrey protested, but there's little doubt Paul E. cost his team a victory.

Meanwhile, Eaton dropped a minor bombshell afterward when he expressed concern that he, Lane, and Cornette were getting too involved with the feud against Dangerously's **Midnights**. "We're in this for the belts," Eaton said, "and **The Road Warriors** are just waiting to get beaten. But we're too busy with Dangerously's boys. We've still got some butt-kicking to do, but I wanna get those belts back, too."

Dangerously and Cornette, however, have no intentions of retreating in this "Battle of the Mouths." Dangerously insists his original goal of driving Cornette out of the NWA will be accomplished. Cornette, on the other hand, said there's no doubt who the superior team is. "Paul E. hit my man over the head with his telephone and we still won," he said. "Not only are we the better team, we've got harder heads."

Here are the full results from Starrcade '88: **Junkyard Dog** won



JUNKYARD DOG



BRAD ARMSTRONG

\$50,000 and the first Bunkhouse Stampede ... **Kevin Sullivan** and **Steve Williams** defeated **The Fantastics** for the U.S. tag belts ... **The Russian Assassins** beat **Ivan Koloff** and **JYD** ... **Rick Steiner** won the TV title from **Mike Rotundo** ... U.S. champion **Barry Windham** defeated **Bam Bam Bigelow** by count-out ... **Ric Flair** successfully defended his NWA World championship by pinning **Lex Luger** (for full details on that match, see "What's Happening" in the April 1989 issue of *The Wrestler*).

Brad Armstrong won the "Wheel of Fortune" and earned a shot at **Tom Prichard's** CWF heavyweight title. Sounds strange? It was. Several top contenders to the belt were each given a number. The wheel was turned, and the wrestler whose number came up received a match against Prichard.

"I don't care how I got it, all I know is that I got it," Armstrong said. "To tell you the truth, though, I've never been too lucky at games." Armstrong hopes his luck holds out for the match

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

against Prichard. If not, though, Brad and **The Bullet** still have the tag belts. By the way, **Scott Armstrong** left the CWF and is wrestling in several independent federations.

Australian women's champion **Susan Sexton** has challenged AWA World women's champion **Wendi Richter** to a series of matches; contractual details are currently being negotiated . . . **Johnny Ace** returned to the Florida Championship area after a successful tour of the Orient. Ace will team with **The Terminator** and pursue the tag belts held by **The Nasty Boys** . . . The November 19 broadcast of *Saturday Night's Main Event* on NBC-TV drew a 9.2 rating and a 25 share, which means over 8-million homes were tuned in to the show . . . Veteran wrestler **Larry Moquin** died of cancer on December 12. Moquin, 65, was a star in Montreal from the 1940s through the '60s.



BUTCH REED

Butch Reed left the WWF and has signed with **J.J. Dillon**, but apparently he will *not* be a member of **The Four Horsemen** . . . Meanwhile,



TOMMY RICH

Tommy Rich, **Michael Hayes**, and **Steve Casey** were all scheduled to start with the NWA in January. **Brian Pillman** may be added to that list . . . There's also a chance Stampede International tag champs **The British Bulldogs** will appear on the February 15 Clash of the Champions card in Cleveland . . . Finally, the NWA is continuing to negotiate with **Rick Steamboat** for a Steamboat-Flair match on that same card.

Robert Fuller and **Jimmy Golden** are involved in a hot CWA feud with **Bill Dundee** and **Wendell Cooley** . . . **Gen. Skandor Akbar** has bounties on the heads of WCCW light heavyweight champ **Eric Embry** and AWA/World Class champ **Jerry Lawler** . . . **Bob Backlund** is currently teaching physical education at Rocky Hill High School in Hartford, Connecticut. He is also coaching the wrestling team. The former WWF champion is scheduled for a series of matches in Japan.

Randy Savage pinned **King**

Haku on December 17 at the Spectrum in Philadelphia. It now appears Haku will receive only a limited number of title matches. On the same card, **Andre the Giant** defeated **Jake Roberts** by disqualification. Roberts suffered an injured left shoulder in the match while trying to nail Andre with a flying clothesline. No report was available on the extent of the injury.

If not for IWGP champ **Tatsumi Fujinami**, **Jerry Lawler** never



JERRY LAWLER

would've had a chance to win the World Class title from **Kerry Von Erich** at SuperClash III. Four days earlier in Tokyo, Fujinami defeated Von Erich by countout, but refused to take the belt. "I only want the belt if I pin Von Erich," he said. Lawler didn't follow up this incredible act of sportsmanship, however. He was caught in a Von Erich claw at SuperClash when referee **Marty Miller** stopped the bout because Kerry was bleeding badly. "The King," however, had no trouble accepting the WCCW belt.

That's all for now, fans! See you at the matches! □

THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

Lex Luger

1986-1989

Rest In Peace

HE CAME FROM Chicago bursting with promise and potential. Though we all knew him to be more steel than skill, even a hardened wrestling newshound like Matt Brock became enchanted with the possibilities. But Brock was not alone in raining plaudits on the newcomer; *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* readers voted Luger 1986 Rookie of the Year.

Hulk Hogan would have to take a number; *LexMania* was poised to sweep the country. In regard to his inevitable capture of the NWA World championship, the only question remaining was not *when* he would win it, but rather *how long* he would hold it. The answer, of course, was: for however long he wants.

Those with the foresight not to hold their breath for the Luger takeover now grin smugly at us folk turning blue. His supporters have finally run out of patience; for Lex Loser, we wait no longer.

Take the following Lex Loser quiz:

1. Lex Luger wrestles Ric Flair for: (a) the NWA title; (b) a large but unspecified amount of money; (c) professional pride; (d) a



NWA World champion Ric Flair wristlocks Lex Luger, the man many people thought would be the next champ. Eddie Ellner doubts Luger will ever reach the lofty goals he set for himself as a rookie, when he caused a sensation in Florida.

month's supply of Four Horsemen vitamins.

2. The referee is unable to count Flair down because: (a) he has been knocked unconscious; (b) Flair has paid him a large but unspecified amount of money; (c) he wonders if Ted Turner will give him a desk job; (d) he regards Luger unfit to wear the belt.

3. Flair retains his title by: (a) pinning Luger using the ropes as leverage; (b) pinning the referee using Luger as leverage; (c) tricking Luger into pinning himself; (d) buying the NWA for a

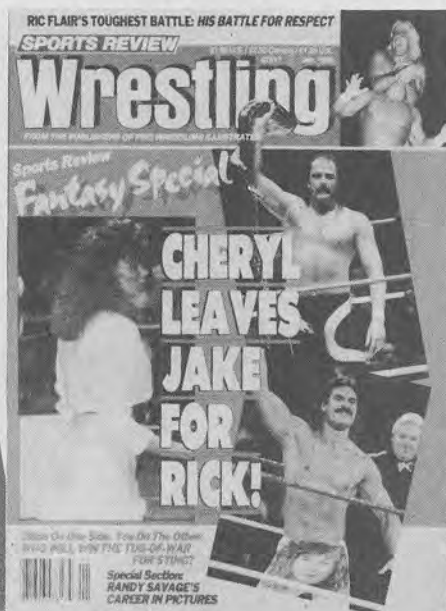
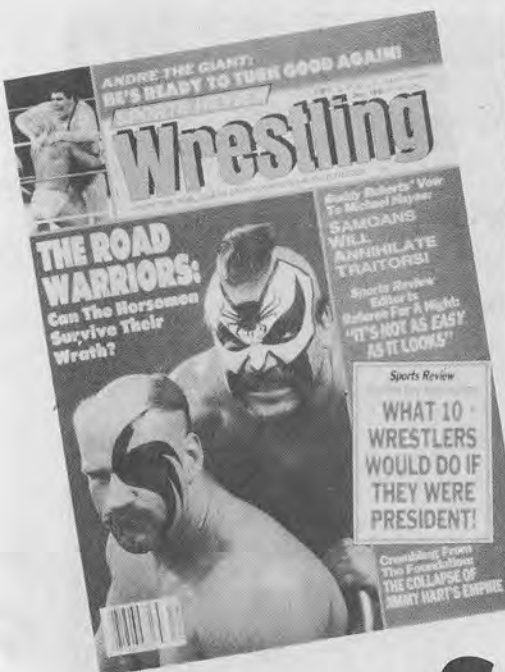
large but unspecified amount in a leveraged buy-out; (e) leaving the arena because his parking meter time has expired and getting disqualified.

4. Luger explains his defeat by: (a) inserting his locker in a plate-glass window; (b) complaining bitterly about the lack of integrity in wrestling today; (c) claiming Flair had paid the janitor a large but unspecified amount of money to grease the ropes; (d) accusing Flair of poisoning his Four Horseman vitamins.

(Continued on page 64)

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the entire wrestling scene make SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING the most exciting wrestling magazine on the market today. Remember: subscribers NEVER miss a single issue. And each issue is delivered in a sturdy protective manila envelope. Get in on the excitement that only SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING brings to you issue after thrilling issue—you won't be sorry!

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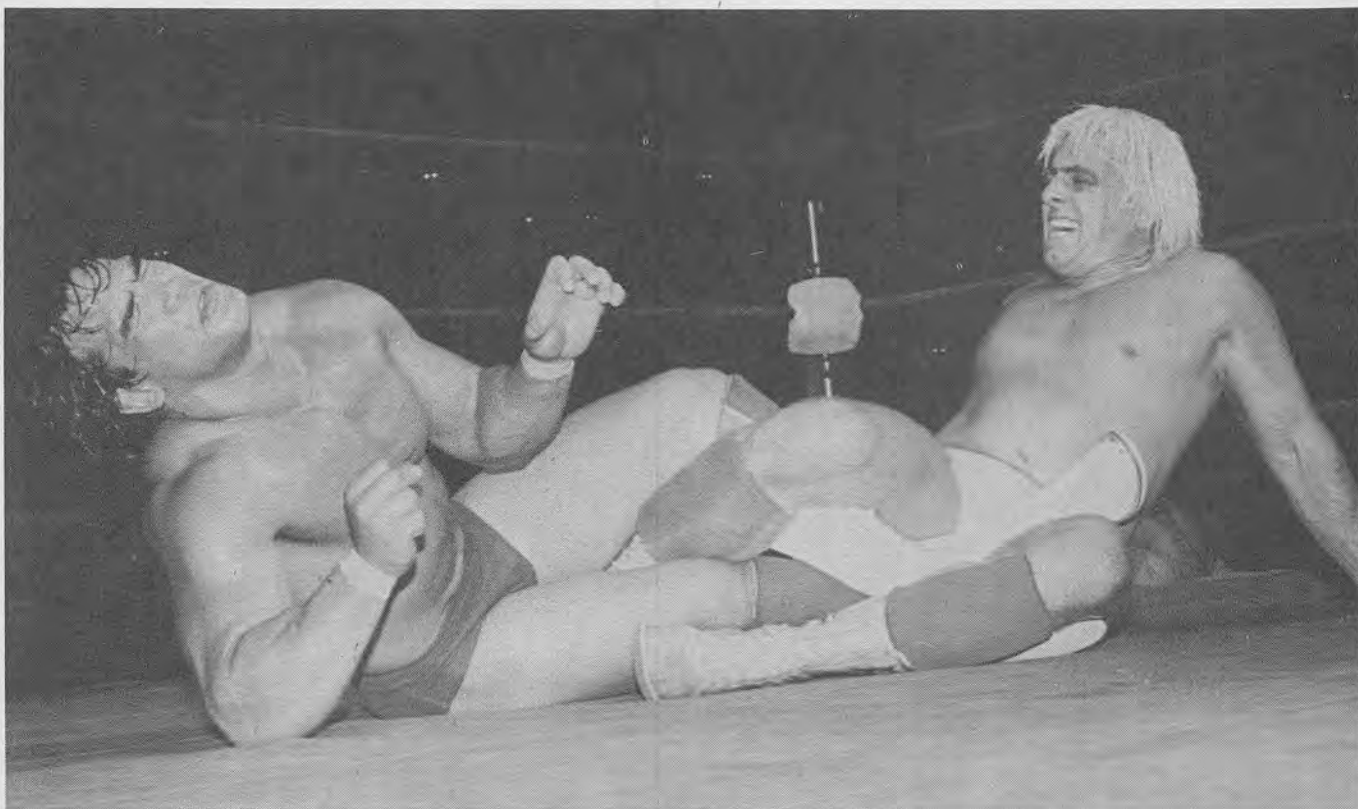
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A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER



Rick Steamboat feels the pain of Ric Flair's figure-four leglock during their classic 1984 bout at New Jersey's Byrne Meadowlands Arena. Steamboat may be headed for more matches with Flair.

TED TURNER'S ACQUISITION of controlling interest in the NWA has left these venerated old wrestling offices abuzz with excitement and possibility. What changes will the flamboyant media mogul instill in the 85-year-old federation?

With opinions flying everywhere about everything (Should titles change on disqualifications? Should they eliminate six-man titles? Should they ban cage matches?), there is one thing fans hope Turner can accomplish that his predecessors were unable to: sign a series of Ric Flair-Rick Steamboat title matches.

It's not just wrestling fans who savor the thought of Flair and

Steamboat mixing it up once again. The wrestlers themselves are excited!

"It would be tremendous," Flair said. "A grappler of Steamboat's versatility brings out the best in me. Our matches rank among the greatest of all time. And I am about fed up with wrestling those twin chumps, Sting and Lex Luger. Don't they know when they've been whipped?"

"Besides, it would provide the NWA with a great attraction. Steamboat-Flair has tremendous marquee value. And if anyone could swing it, Turner could—that is, if he's able to find that Polynesian prima donna. Steamboat thinks he's a movie star or some-

thing. He's become reclusive. As it is, it'll take him months to get into shape enough to wrestle me. I hope Turner does some fast talking with his checkbook and lures Ricky from his hole in the ground."

While Steamboat appreciates his longtime rival's concerns about his health, the popular star feels he could step into the ring tomorrow and give a good accounting of himself. I visited Steamboat at his Charlotte, North Carolina, gym where he has grown accustomed to a quieter, gentler existence.

"I have a very nice life here, no matter how much fun Ric Flair

(Continued on page 66)

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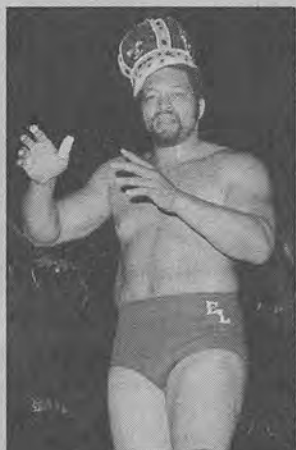
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



ERNIE LADD

The first man to proclaim himself "The King of Wrestling," Ladd decided to leave the sport three years ago, but he's been very busy since then. A longtime friend of President George Bush, Ladd was a top campaign aide in

Bush's organization in Louisiana. He also works for Metro Consultants, a research firm in Houston, and he's been active in helping minorities gain employment in federal construction projects and other fields.



ARNOLD SKAALAND

The "Golden Boy" was a fine wrestler in his own right, but Skaaland was perhaps best known as the manager of former WWF champions Bruno Sammartino and Bob Backlund. Today, he is employed

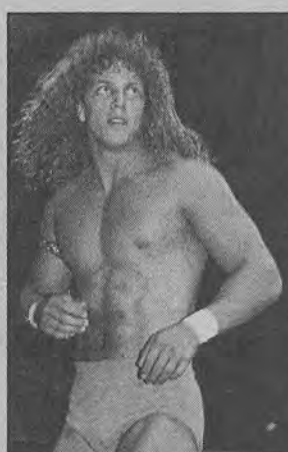
by the WWF as an executive assistant, arranging publicity for wrestling cards in several New York State cities. He is also busy training his son, George Skaaland, a rising star on several independent circuits.



BARON VON RASCHKE

After leaving the AWA to become the manager of The Powers of Pain in the WWF, the Baron's career suddenly is in a holding pattern. "The Powers shocked me with their alliance with Mr. Fuji," said the Baron. "I

don't want any part of them while they're aligned with him. I may return to the WWF with another team to go *against* them, or perhaps I will don the tights again and go after Warlord and Barbarian myself!"



STEVE SIMPSON

Steve and his brother Shaun, the former World Class tag team champions, are currently on a world tour. After the tour is completed, the brothers plan to return to their native South Africa.

"Wrestling in our homeland is becoming more popular each day," said Steve. "Shaun and I hope to stay a while this time. I really believe that we can help make South Africa one of the world's most respected wrestling capitals."

INSIDE WRESTLING

153

CAPSULE PROFILE

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR



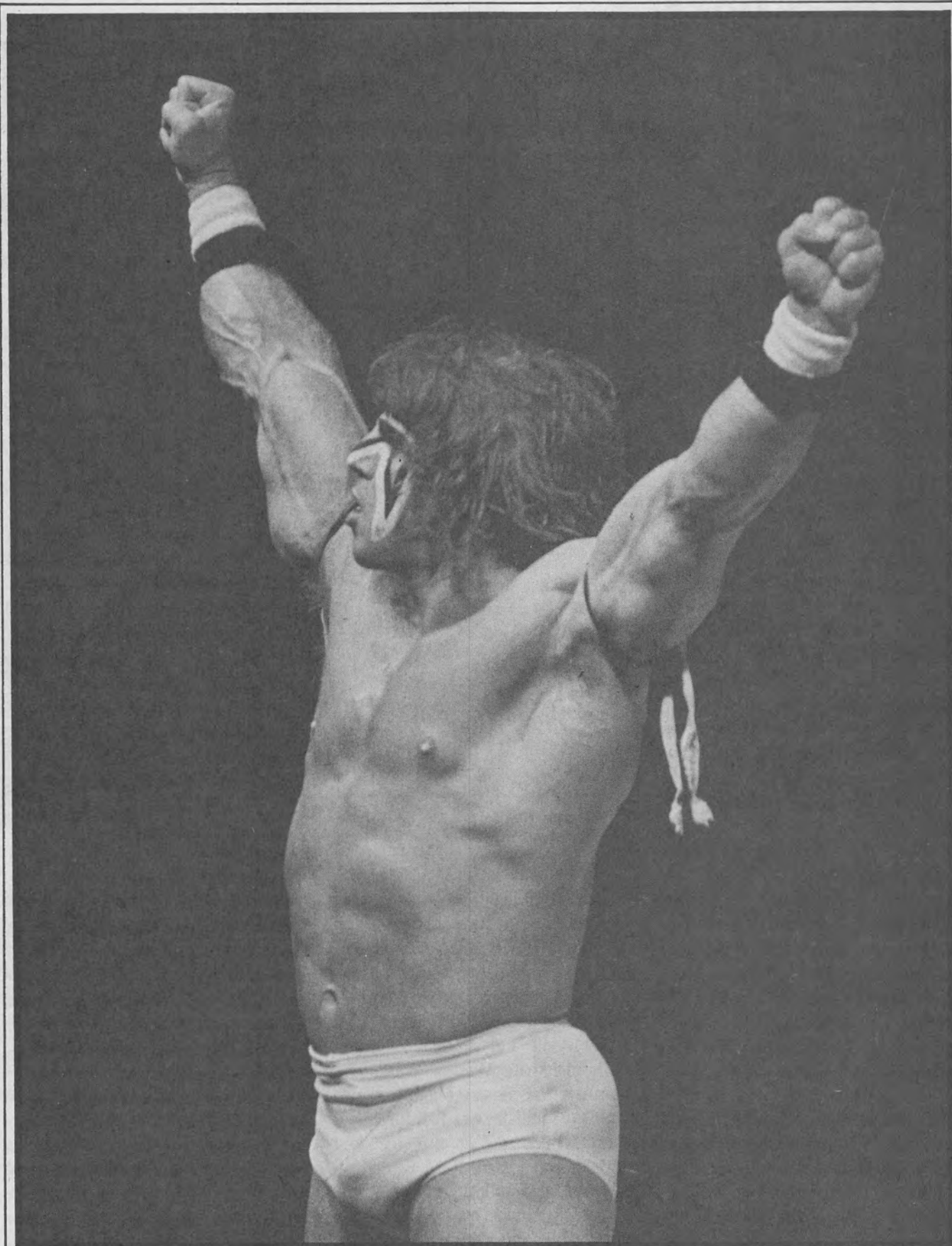
The Ultimate Warrior presses Barry Horowitz over his head. The Warrior's tremendous power helped him win the Intercontinental title from The Honky Tonk Man.

THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR is the WWF Intercontinental champion (*"The most powerful athlete in the world, period"*) ... Began his career as a member of Powerteam U.S.A., a quartet of wrestlers that also included the man who would become known as Sting (*"He had outstanding potential right from the start"*) ... Warrior and Sting formed their own tag team, The Freedom Fighters (*"Just like the name says, it was a team that fought for freedom from oppression"*) ... Moved from the Mid-Southern area to Mid-South, where they became The Blade Runners (*"The name change didn't matter; domination was the key"*) ... Soon after Eddie Gilbert took over management of the team, the Warrior decided to go out on his own (*"Gilbert couldn't do anything right"*) ... Moving to World Class, he changed his name to Dingo Warrior and took on Gary Hart as his manager (*"Texas offered a whole new range of opportunities"*) ... Later joined Percy Pringle's stable (*"Pringle! Another loser!"*) ... Teamed with Lance Von Erich to win the World Class tag team title from Matt Borne and Master Gee on November 17, 1986 (*"An awesome victory"*) ... After they lost that title to Al Madril and Brian Adias, Warrior defeated Bob Bradley to capture the Texas title (*"Talk about an easy win"*)

... In April 1987, the title was stripped from him due to a lack of defenses, but he was reinstated on May 25 (*"Those guys didn't know what they were doing"*) ... After losing the championship to Al Perez in Puerto Rico, Warrior left World Class for the WWF and changed his name to The Ultimate Warrior (*"The ultimate wrestler deserves the ultimate name"*) ... Initially wrestled lower-level competition (*"That was the best way to reach the top"*) ... Earned respect and admiration by scoring several impressive wins over Harley Race and Hercules (*"It proved the Warrior was ready to take on the very best"*) ... Tagged up with Don Muraco on several occasions (*"The man knows*

what power wrestling is all about") ... As a last-minute substitute for Brutus Beefcake, the Warrior captured the Intercontinental title from The Honky Tonk Man at SummerSlam 88 on August 29, 1988 (*"Thirty-one seconds! That's all it took to dump that greasy slimeball"*) ... Successfully defended the belt against Honky Tonk many times (*"Do you really think Honky should be any trouble?"*) ... Pinned Greg Valentine to earn the win for his team at the Survivor Series on Thanksgiving night (*"It was survival of the fittest"*) ... Starting to feud with Rick Rude (*"The way he insults women is disgusting"*) ... Was scheduled to have a posedown with Rude at the Royal Rumble in January (*"You know who's gonna win!"*) □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR



Inside

Wrestling

BACK ISSUES OF

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November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

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April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.

June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

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January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humerdink.

February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.

June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlingmania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.

April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.

May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.

June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.

July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.

August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlingmania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.

September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.

October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Luger, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.

November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.

December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.

February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.

March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.

April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.

May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.

June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.

July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.

August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.

September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.

October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.

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December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.

January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.

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March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.

April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.

May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.

June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.

August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.

September 1988/SPECIAL ISSUE: Color coverage of WMIV, Parade of Champs, Crockett Cup. Plus: Lawler, Von Erich, Hart, Cornette.

October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.

November 1988/Stories include: Kerry vs. Lawler, Windham, Luger, Muraco.

December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.

January 1989/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Arn, Kerry-Lawler.

February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors-Windham-Sting.

March 1989/Stories include: Hennig, Midnights-Midnights, Fuller & Golden, Ultimate.

INSIDE WRESTLING

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JACKSON, MS By Chris Walker



**EDDIE GILBERT
vs.
LARRY ZBYSZKO**



At the start of the bout, Gilbert gained the advantage by using a rope he'd pulled from his tights. Later in the bout, Zbyszko turned the match to his favor by kicking and punching Gilbert. At about the 30-minute mark, Zbyszko missed a clothesline on "Hot Stuff." Gilbert then caught Zbyszko coming off the ropes and gave him a "hotshot" clothesline and scored the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: The Midnight Express beat The Road Warriors by DQ ... Dusty Rhodes pinned Kevin Sullivan ... Lex Luger & Nikita Koloff beat Ric Flair & Al Perez ... Ivan Koloff beat Russian Assassin I by DQ ... Dick Murdoch beat Barry Windham by DQ ... Mike Rotundo pinned Italian Stallion.

SACRAMENTO, CA By Jason Vanning



**RANDY SAVAGE
vs.
ANDRE THE GIANT**



When Jake Roberts came to ringside with his snake Damien, the Giant suddenly froze with fear. Roberts hid his snake bag under the ring and left. Meanwhile, Savage started an offensive on Andre. Bobby Heenan found Jake's bag and started running, only to be chased back to ringside by Roberts. In the ring, Savage beat up Heenan and tied up Andre in the ropes. Jake then took Damien out of the bag and threw him near Andre, who managed to get free and flee with Heenan back to the dressing room. Both Savage and Andre were disqualified.

OTHER BOUTS: The Ultimate Warrior defeated Super Ninja ... Hacksaw Dugan pinned Boris Zuhov ... Hercules crushed Virgil ... Jacques and Raymond Rougeau defeated The Young Stallions.

DALLAS, TX By Andy Wilkinson



**ICEMAN PARSONS
vs.
ERIC EMBRY**



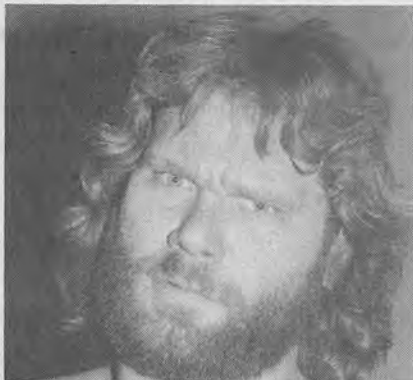
In this cage match, Parsons and Embry started beating on each other even before the cage door closed. Gen. Skandor Akbar tossed Iceman a foreign object, which he used to hit Embry. Then Akbar threw a chair over the top of the cage and Iceman used that. Michael Hayes and Jeff Jarrett came out and started climbing over the top to help Embry. Iceman then kicked the door open and left, winning the match. Hayes was so angered by the result that he beat up the referee!

OTHER BOUTS: Kerry Von Erich defeated Jerry Lawler ... The Samoan Swat Team and Michael Hayes & Jeff Jarrett battled to a double-DQ ... Steve Cox beat The Avenger ... Super Black Ninja defeated Phillip Wiley ... Jimmy Jack Funk pinned Mickey Finn Jr.

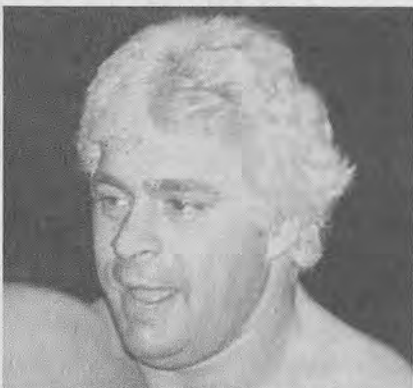
WRESTLING CAPITALS



FAYETTEVILLE, NC By Neil Fuller



HACKSAW DUGGAN
vs.
DINO BRAVO



The match began with Duggan chasing Bravo and Frenchy Martin out of the ring with his 2x4 and threatening the referee with it. A few minutes later, Martin got up on the ring apron and Duggan went after him. While Hacksaw was halfway out of the ring, Bravo kned him in the back and got the pin, although Duggan's foot was on the ropes. Duggan then chased Bravo out of the ring and brutalized Martin with his 2x4. **OTHER BOUTS:** Lanny Poffo pinned Barry Horowitz ... Demolition beat The British Bulldogs ... Duggan won a 17-man battle royal ... The Rougeaus defeated The Hart Foundation ... Harley Race pinned Mike Sharpe ... Curt Hennig beat Koko B. Ware.

BALTIMORE, MD By Rick Heiger



RIC FLAIR
vs.
RICK STEINER



Before the match started, Steiner stole Flair's robe and wore it around the ring, infuriating the champion. Steiner took everything Flair dished out, laughing and barking in his face. Steiner then got the upper hand, delivering chops, clotheslines, and suplexes. He stunned Flair with a suplex and had him pinned, but J.J. Dillon put Flair's leg on the rope. Finally, Flair suplexed Steiner and pinned him, though Flair had his foot on the ropes.

OTHER BOUTS: The Road Warriors and Lex Luger & Sting battled to a double-DQ ... Dusty Rhodes beat Barry Windham by DQ ... Nikita & Ivan Koloff beat The Russian Assassins ... Tommy Rogers beat Rip Morgan ... Mike Rotundo beat Bobby Fulton.

MEMPHIS, TN By Raymond Duncan

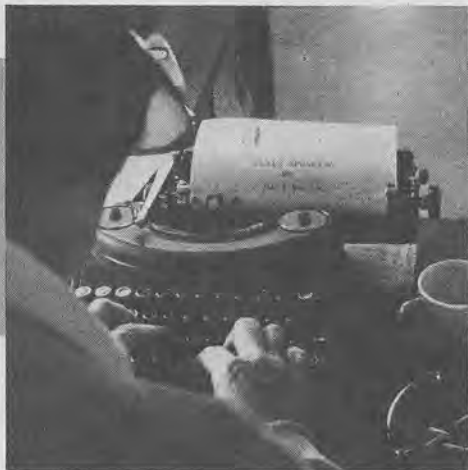


JERRY LAWLER
vs.
JIM GARVIN



During the match, Gen. Skandor Akbar sent The Botswana Beast in to beat up Lawler. Garvin ran out of the ring and punched Akbar, who signaled to the dressing room. Kamala came out and, along with the Beast, double-teamed Lawler. Garvin finally helped Lawler, but Kamala delivered a splash off the top rope on Lawler, who was carried out on a stretcher. Lawler won a painful decision in the match by disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: Jeff Jarrett pinned Eric Embry ... The Samoan Swat Team beat Michael Hayes & Rick Morton ... Robert Fuller & Jimmy Golden beat Bill Dundee & Wendell Cooley ... Iceman Parsons pinned Steve Cox ... Brian Lee pinned Don Bass.



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

CHICAGO, IL: A trip to the Windy City always brings back memories, and many years from now one of those memories will be of SuperClash III, one of the best cards I've seen in quite a long time. Throw away the women's lingerie battle royal—and they threw away a lot in that match—and you had nearly three hours of top-flight wrestling. The Jerry Lawler-Kerry Von Erich title tiff was the highlight, but there were several other damn good matches, particularly Wahoo McDaniel vs. Manny Fernandez, Greg Gagne vs. Ronnie Garvin, and Eric Embry vs. Jeff Jarrett. As I've said a couple of times before, Embry and Jarrett are two kids who really know how to wrestle, and they put on a clinic for the folks at the UIC Pavilion. Embry's now a four-time World Class light heavyweight champion. Gagne vs. Garvin was a fine match, but I detected a lack of intensity on Garvin's part. Could it be that since he'd already signed a contract with the WWF he really didn't care about the AWA TV title? If so, it's hard to blame him, although who the heck knows what he's going to do in the WWF. McDaniel vs. Fernandez, an Indian strap match, was one of the bloodiest matches I've ever seen—until Lawler-

Von Erich came along. The mat was coated with blood by the time these two guys were finished, and I *still* don't know how Von Erich was able to see through that crimson mask covering his face. I do know one thing, though: I've been on this beat for more than a few decades, and believe me, I haven't seen too many matches stopped on account of blood. But rarely have I seen a man as bloody as Von Erich. I don't know if it was the right decision; all I know is there was no conspiracy involved, and this war is far from finished. When it continues, I'll be there.

MEMPHIS, TN: The WWF held a show at the Mid-South Coliseum, and I half expected Jerry Lawler to run out and throw fire in Randy Savage's face. Invading an area is one thing, but the Mid-South Coliseum is the home base of the CWA. It's like the Jets playing in Giants Stadium; something just isn't right. The card itself, however, was top-notch, a far-above-average WWF effort that the crowd enjoyed. In the main event, Savage disposed of Rick Rude with an elbowsmash off the top rope that must've rattled every bone in Rude's body. This is a major mismatch, especially since Rude was man-handled so severely by Jake Roberts. And it was especially a mismatch because Savage was psyched-up for his homecoming. He wrestled in Memphis for several years just before entering the WWF in 1985, and this gave him an opportunity to show everyone that the local boy certainly made good.

WHITE PLAINS, NY: Bob Smith is my kind of reporter. The man knows how to get dirt under his fingernails, unlike some of these yuppie journalists clogging up the newsprint these days; he's a blood and guts reporter. We grabbed a bite to eat after a card at a benefit card for Multiple Sclerosis at the Westchester County Center, an old hole in the wall that brings back some fond memories, and we had this poor waitress making 50-yard dashes back to the



MANNY FERNANDEZ vs. WAHOO McDANIEL

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor



DAVID & BRUNO SAMMARTINO

kitchen every five minutes. As for the card itself, where else these days can you see Bruno and David Sammartino, Capt. Lou Albano, Domenic DeNucci, The Haiti Kid, Johnny Rodz, Sgt. Slaughter, Johnny Valiant, and The Iron Sheik all in the same night? Talk about bringing back the old days! Misty Blue was also on the card, engaging in yet another installment of her violent war with Linda Dallas. All in all, it was a great evening of wrestling, and yet another good argument in favor of checking out the independent cards in your area.

NORFOLK, VA: Two title changes and nothing solved in the Ric Flair-Lex Luger feud. That sentence just about sums up Starrcade '88, an outstanding show that had one major problem. Mainly, Flair and Luger have been going at it since last July, and the NWA has *yet* to solve the problem of controversial pins and cheating wrestlers. Flair had his feet squarely on the ropes when he pinned Luger, which was clear to everyone in the arena *except* the one man who counted: referee Tommy Young. Personally, I'm getting tired of the whole deal. Back in the old days, the WWF got most of its feuds over with quickly by going to a no-disqualification match if the first match didn't end with a clear decision, and going to a steel cage match if the second match didn't end with a clear decision. I'm tired of seeing



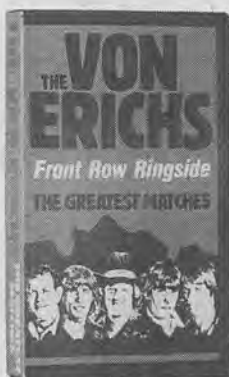
LEX LUGER vs. RIC FLAIR

Flair and Luger go at it, and I think a lot of other people are, too. Flair needs some new challengers. Luger, obviously, doesn't have what it takes to overcome Flair's skill and cheating tactics. Maybe he's not cut out to be champion. Rick Steiner, meanwhile, won the NWA TV title from Mike Rotundo when he should've been wrestling Flair for the big belt. If Steiner has any brains at all—which is seriously in doubt—he'll forget the TV strap and go right after Flair. That's where the big bucks are. As for Steve Williams and Kevin Sullivan winning the U.S. tag belts from The Fantastics, I'd be shocked if they hold on to those things for more than a week. Sullivan and Doc might be tough, but The Fantastics have talent. Besides, they're a *real* tag team, not some ad hoc duo slapped together at a moment's notice. The Varsity Club may be strong, but Williams and Sullivan are new to each other's tactics. This title reign is a title change just waiting to happen. □



A VON ERICH EXTRAVAGANZA!

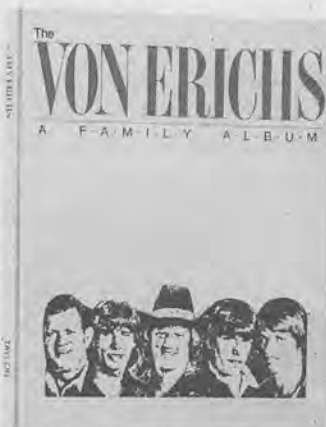
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- The entire May 6, 1984, bout in which Kerry Von Erich captured the NWA World title from Ric Flair at Texas Stadium in front of 43,518 fans.
- Highlights of Mike Von Erich's November 24, 1983, debut match against Gen. Skandor Akbar, and a battle against John Tatum.
- Rare footage of Chris Von Erich; Fritz vs. Joe Blanchard; David spanking Sunshine; six-man action featuring Mike, Lance, & Kevin, and David, Kevin, and Kerry; and Mike's hospitalization from toxic shock syndrome.

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IRAQ . . . IRAN . . . SOUTH AFRICA: SGT. SLAUGHTER UNDER SIEGE!

Wrestling's leading anti-American forces—The Iron Sheik, Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, and Col. DeBeers—have formed a deadly alliance against Sgt. Slaughter. Can America's greatest patriot survive this all-out assault?



The Iron Sheik attacks Sgt. Slaughter with a foreign object while Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie holds the Sarge and Col. DeBeers looks on. This trio of foreign wrestlers, along with Diamond Dallas Page, pose the greatest threat yet to Slaughter's career.

By Bob Smith

THE HOTEL CLERK was very confused. The reservation for a business meeting at this Minneapolis inn was reserved by Mr. John Jones, the president of a company listed as "General International." But this man wearing an Arab kaffiyeh surely didn't look like the type who would run a Fortune 500 company, and he *certainly* didn't look like his name was John Jones.

"This is correct, American inn-keeper," said the man. "I am Mr. Jones, who make reservation for meeting of big-time business tycoons. I have cash for reservation. Do not detain me any longer, please."

With that, the man walked into the meeting room and slammed the door behind him. Thirty minutes later, a second man wearing a kaffiyeh, calling himself Mr. Smith, entered the room. Soon afterward, a man in a beret and a long-haired man in sunglasses arrived at the desk; they called themselves Mr. Johnson and Mr. Andrews. The clerk realized this was no ordinary meeting.

"We fooled idiot American hotel clerk!" laughed The Iron Sheik—the man who masqueraded as Jones—upon the arrival of his associates. "We convince him that we set up capitalist American meeting, but we are here to discuss important wrestling business. We are to discuss elimination of Sgt. Slaughter."

Joining Iran's Iron Sheik at this meeting were his new manager, Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie of Iraq, as well as Col. DeBeers of South Africa and his manager, Diamond Dallas Page. All of these men have suffered at the hands of the former Marine drill instructor in the past. Now they want to return the favor.

"We must end career of Slaughter Sergeant," spit Iron Sheik. "He continually get in my way. Five long years I have warred with him. I am tired of his ugly American face. He must be destroyed so I can become champion again. I cannot go back to my country with pride unless he is destroyed."

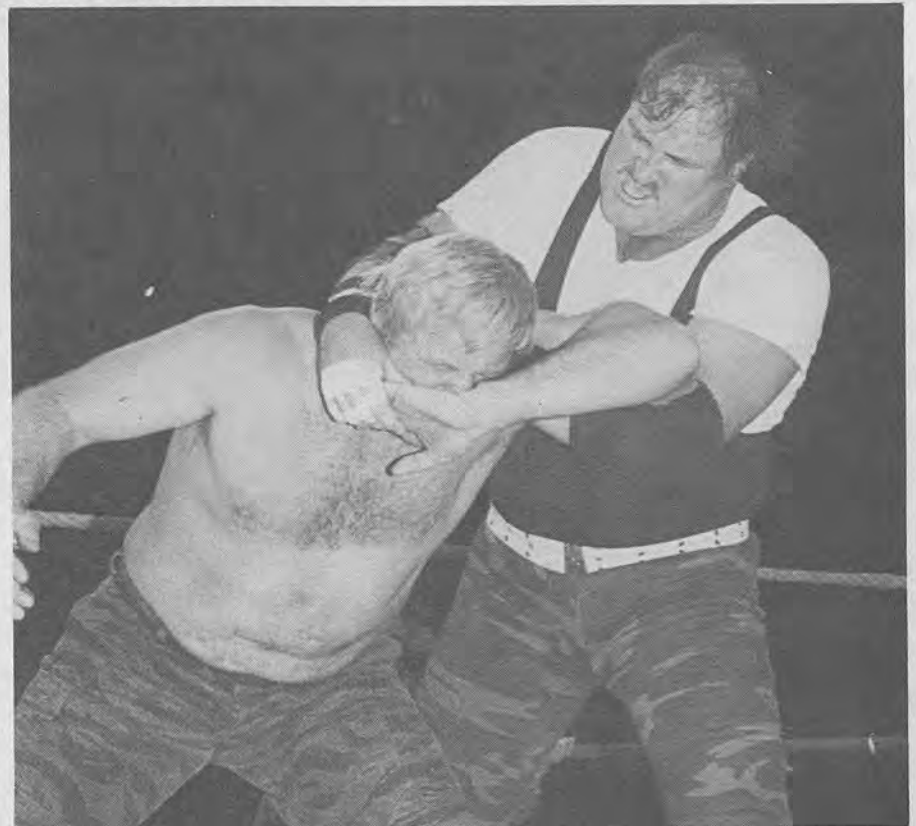
"Right," agreed DeBeers. "This man caused me one of the most embarrassing losses of my career at SuperClash III. I am thankful to you and the great Al-Kaissie for coming to my aid there. I pledge my undying support to you all."

"If we work together, there's no way that stinking American can stand a chance," echoed Al-Kaissie. "I have the money, Page has the brains, and DeBeers and the great Iron Sheik have the skills. We must prove that the wrestlers of our countries are far greater than that so-called American hero. The SuperClash III incident was the beginning of the end for Slaughter."

That match, slated as a one-on-one boot camp match pitting Slaughter against DeBeers, was one of Slaughter's greatest triumphs—for about 10 seconds. It then became the setting for one of the most violent blindsides at-



At SuperClash III, DeBeers, wearing Slaughter's helmet, whips the Sarge across the ring (above). Slaughter traps DeBeers in his dreaded cobra clutch (below). Sarge used that hold to force DeBeers to submit.



tacks of the year.

At the end of this savage bout, Slaughter had DeBeers locked in his cobra clutch, earning a hard-fought submission victory. As the referee called for the bell, Page called for Al-Kaissie, who attacked Slaughter from behind. Slaughter managed to fight off all three until The Iron Sheik stormed the ring.

Sheik repeatedly slammed Slaughter's head with a foreign object until Chavo, Hector, and Mando Guerrero ran the devious threesome from the ring.

"Big, tough foreigners," complained Slaughter afterward as bandages were being placed over the numerous cuts that defiled his forehead. "If they want to start a



Slaughter whacks DeBeers with his riding crop (above) and sends the Colonel for a ride (below). In addition to DeBeers, Slaughter must be concerned with The Iron Sheik, his most dangerous enemy for the past five years.



new world war, they've come to the right place. If you notice, it took three of them to get me, didn't it? That's why I hate them so much—they have no sense of fair play at all."

Apparently not. DeBeers, Al-Kaissie, and Page don't care about things like rules and regulations. They figure if Slaughter is

out of the way, title matches against AWA World champion Jerry Lawler will be easier to obtain. But Iron Sheik, unlike the others, doesn't seem to care much about Lawler's belt. His singleminded goal is to maim Slaughter.

"Slaughter *must* be pulverized," Sheik told his rulebreaking

compatriots. "He was man who prevent me from getting title shots against Hulk Hogan years ago. Now he wants to end my career, but now I've got army of men to fight him. I don't want Lawler, I don't want TV belt, I don't want anything else. All I want is Slaughter's head to be hung in Iran, so fine citizens can throw rocks at it."

With that, Sheik slammed his fist into the glass table, shattering it into thousands of tiny pieces. Hotel security rushed into the meeting room to find all four men picking up shards of glass from the carpet. Page paid for the damaged table; Slaughter was informed about the incident at an AWA card a few days later.

"Those guys obviously weren't at that hotel to talk about stocks and bonds," Slaughter said. "I know they're out to get me. Well, good luck, foreigners. I defeated DeBeers, so it makes sense that he's angry. But I didn't expect to see Sheik launch such a full-scale attack. He busted me up pretty bad, but I'm *glad* he's around again. Now I can get rid of him once and for all. It will make my career complete."

The stage is set. The Iron Sheik, Col. DeBeers, and Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie are now acting as a unit. Slaughter realizes the situation, and is prepared to respond in kind.

"They're not the *only* ones who have an army," Slaughter said with a smile. "All those foreign swine always forget about my Cobra Corps, which grows by leaps and bounds every day. They way I figure it, it's four against four million."

Slaughter saluted and walked away, but he had one last comment. "Tell *them* to bring reinforcements," laughed Slaughter. "They're gonna need a lot of help if they even want to come *close* to defeating me! This is one fight I'd *never* lose!" □

WRESTLING'S HOTTEST WINTER

By Bill Apter

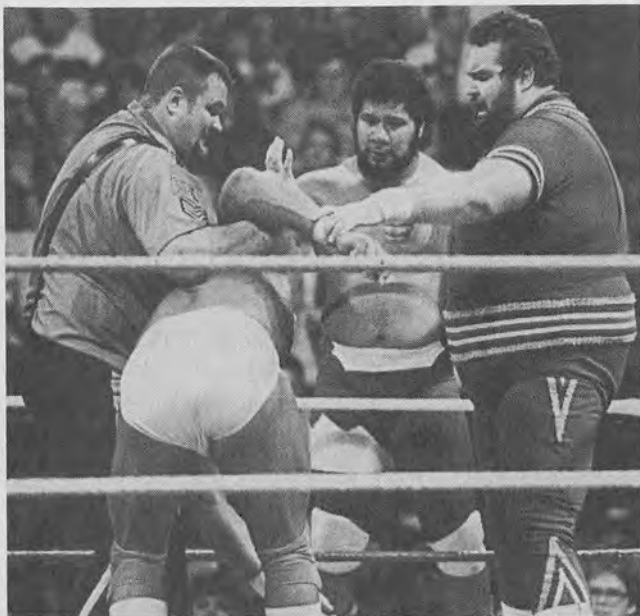
WHEN THE WEATHER cools down, the action heats up. The holiday season has always been one of the most exciting periods on the wrestling calendar, and 1988 was no exception. Across the country at several arenas, fans thrilled to unbelievable, heart-stopping wrestling action. And if you couldn't get to the are-

nas, most of these big cards were available on TV.

Wrestling is a year-round sport, but it always seems to be better in the colder months, when people spend most of their time inside. And these outstanding cards made your couch or arena seat *the* place to be. The five weeks from Thanksgiving Day until the day af-

ter Christmas were unforgettable in many ways:

- There were three pay-per-view TV shows from three different federations—or combinations of federations. The WWF presented its second Survivor Series; the NWA moved its annual Thanksgiving Day Starrcade extravaganza to December 26 to maximize the po-



Big Bossman, King Haku, and Akeem triple-team Hulk Hogan at the Survivor Series (above left). Lex Luger tries to backslide Ric Flair during their NWA World title bout at Starrcade '88 (above right).

The Survivor Series! Battlestarr week! The Clash of the Champions! SuperClash III! The 1988 holiday season was one of the greatest ever, and *Inside Wrestling* was there. We're proud to bring it all to you in this fabulous special section!



In a defense of her AWA World women's title, Wendi Richter punishes former champ Madusa Miceli. With SuperClash, the AWA, World Class, CWA, and CWF joined the WWF and NWA as players in the burgeoning pay-per-view market.

tential audience; and the AWA, WCCW, CWA, and CWF combined for an unprecedented PPV extravaganza—SuperClash III—on December 13. The success of SuperClash III made the PPV market more crowded than ever, and intensified this lucrative television war.

● Battlestarr week. The NWA conducted a series of pre-Starrcade warmups from November 23 in Baltimore to November 27 in Richmond, Virginia. The concept was outstanding: Top NWA stars in top matches at the federation's most important arenas. So, instead of getting one big show during the Thanksgiving holiday, fans got five (The Omni, the Charlotte Coliseum, and the Greensboro Coliseum were the other sites).

● Jerry Lawler defeated Kerry Von Erich to add the World Class belt to his AWA World title at

SuperClash III. This was an extremely controversial match. Midway through, Lawler used a foreign object and a series of closed-fist punches to open several serious cuts on Von Erich's face and arms. The bloodied Von Erich, however, fought back and clamped a clawhold on Lawler. After 18 minutes and 54 seconds, referee Marty Miller called for the bell and declared Kerry unfit to continue. "Unfair!" shouted Kerry, but he'll have plenty of chances for revenge.

● Strong hints of friction between Randy Savage and Hulk Hogan were exposed at the end of the Survivor Series. After Elizabeth freed Hogan from Big Bossman's handcuffs, the "Hulkster" took the tag from a dazed Savage and quickly disposed of King Haku for the victory. But when Hogan grabbed Elizabeth to celebrate, Savage met Hogan with a gaze that

could have melted ice. Hogan and Savage didn't shake hands or pose together afterward, and could be headed for a Megapowers breakup.

● Ric Flair retained his NWA World title with a stunning but controversial victory over top challenger Lex Luger. Rick Steiner won the NWA TV title from Mike Rotundo, Junkyard Dog won \$50,000 and the first Bunkhouse Stampede of the year, and Kevin Sullivan and Steve Williams scored a shocking upset to win the U.S. tag belts from The Fantastics. All this happened at Starrcade '88, an incredible evening of wrestling that will never be forgotten.

● Manager Mr. Fuji left WWF World tag team champions Demolition and joined The Powers of Pain in a shocking reversal at the Survivor Series. With Demolition on the verge of victory, Fuji climbed onto the ring apron and

begged Ax and Smash for a chance to get in on the brutality. When Demolition refused, Fuji held down the ropes and sent Smash falling to the arena floor. Smash then smashed Fuji, who was saved by Warlord and Barbarian. A grateful Fuji helped the Powers dispose of the Conquistadors to win the match, then announced he was their official manager.

●The Clash of the Champions. The NWA's fourth prime-time TV card on SuperStation TBS was broadcast live from the UTC Pavilion in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It was an amazing evening of wrestling, headlined by the Road Warrior Animal vs. Dusty Rhodes grudge match. A month earlier, Animal had nearly blinded Rhodes with a steel spike. And while the "American Dream" was unable to

gain revenge, he proved that he won't back down to *anyone*. Animal beat Rhodes by disqualification to earn the Warriors and the partner of their choice the NWA six-man tag team belts.

●An incredible display of guts by Eddie Gilbert at the Clash of the Champions. Unable to tag out to partner Ron Simmons in the final of the U.S. tag team title tournament, Gilbert held off The Fantastics alone for nearly 10 minutes before finally succumbing. How did he do it? "I had to keep digging deeper and deeper," Gilbert revealed, "but I'd never give up."

●The Survivor Series. Good concept, but can it survive for another year? The Survivor Series was one of the finest cards of the year, but the Richfield (Ohio) Coliseum was slightly less than half-full, and the pay-per-view audi-

ence was below par. Last year, we stated that the sellout crowd at the Coliseum and the huge PPV audience proved that fans will come to see such a card. It's an exciting, innovative idea, but perhaps fans want one-on-one action and tag team matches, not five-on-five gimmicks.

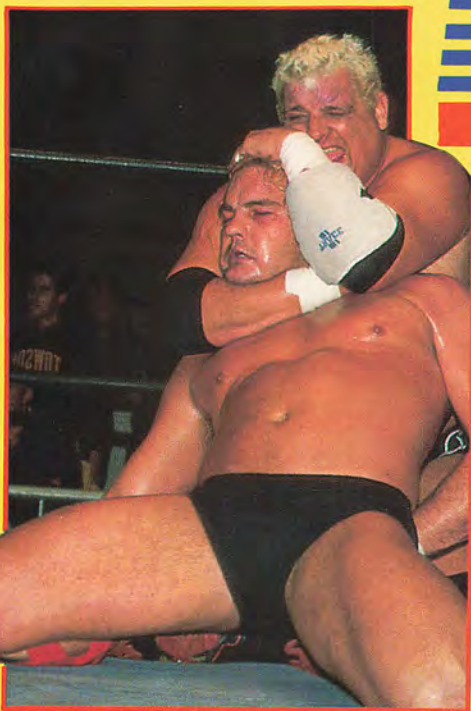
Flair's victory, Savage's glare, Gilbert's guts, the Lawler-Von Erich controversy; these were the highlights of a month stocked with outstanding wrestling action. Who could ask for more? It was an incredible holiday season packed with wrestling, and *Inside Wrestling* is proud to have been there to report all the action to you in words and pictures. We hope we've whetted your appetite for the glorious full-color section that follows.

Bon appetit!

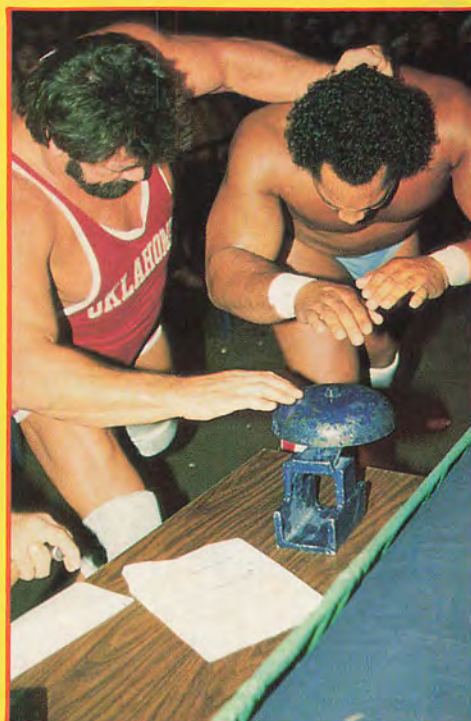


Paul Jones chokes former charge Ivan Koloff during the Chattanooga, Tennessee, Clash of the Champions (above left). In Atlanta, during Battlestarr week, Ron Simmons tosses Mike Rotundo to the mat (above right).

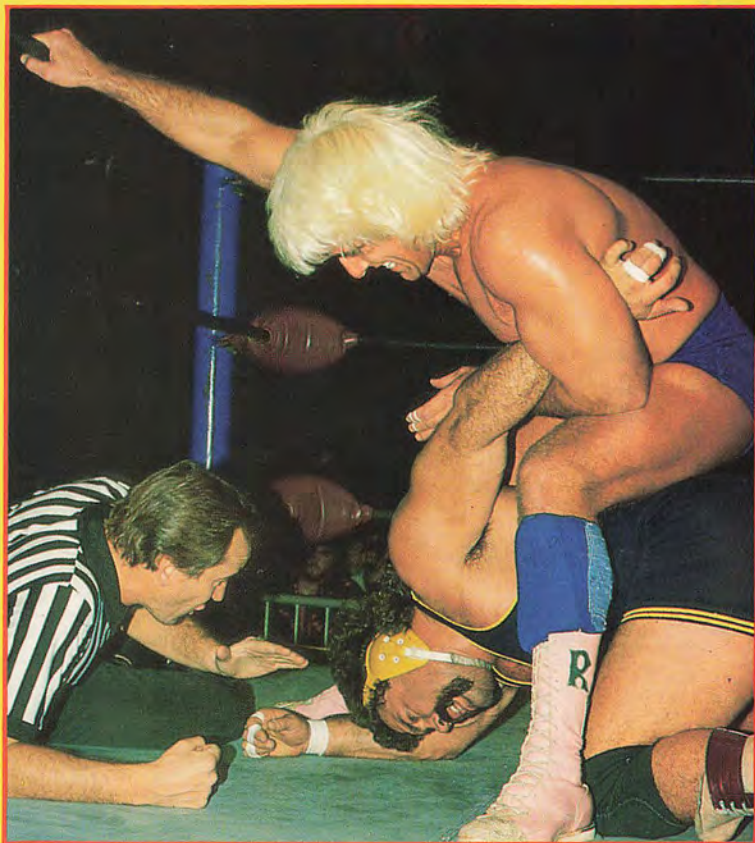
WRESTLING'S HOTTEST WINTER BATTLESTARR



Dusty Rhodes puts the sleeper on Barry Windham (above); Dusty won this match in Baltimore by DQ. In Atlanta, Sting dives at Animal (right); both The Road Warriors and Sting & Lex Luger were disqualified.



Steve Williams runs Ron Simmons' head into the timekeeper's bell; Williams and Mike Rotundo scored the victory over Simmons and Rick Steiner in Atlanta.



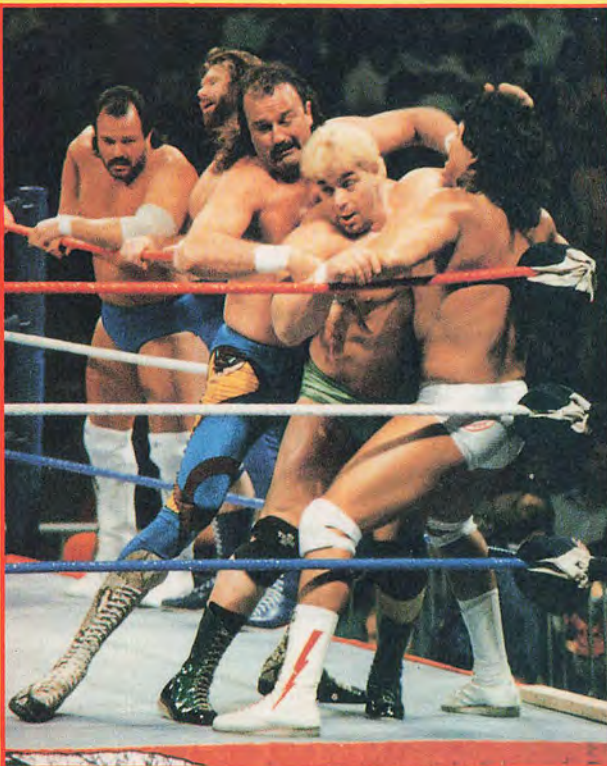
In Atlanta, Ric Flair dominates Bam Bam Bigelow (left), but Bigelow and Dusty battled back to beat Flair and Windham. Flair beat Steiner in a title match in Baltimore (above).

WRESTLING'S HOTTEST WINTER

SURVIVOR SERIES



Ted DiBiase slugs Randy Savage (above); The "Macho Man's" team won when Hulk Hogan pinned King Haku. It looks like a rugby scrum when Jake Roberts, Dino Bravo, and Tito Santana pile into the ropes (below); Roberts and Santana lost when Curt Hennig pinned "The Snake."



Davey Boy Smith presses Conquistador I over his head as Smash and Barbarian wait for a tag. In a bizarre finish, Barbarian pinned the Conquistador.



Hogan and Hillbilly Jim give Haku the boot (above). The Ultimate Warrior launches Blue Blazer at Ron Bass (below); Warrior pinned Greg Valentine.

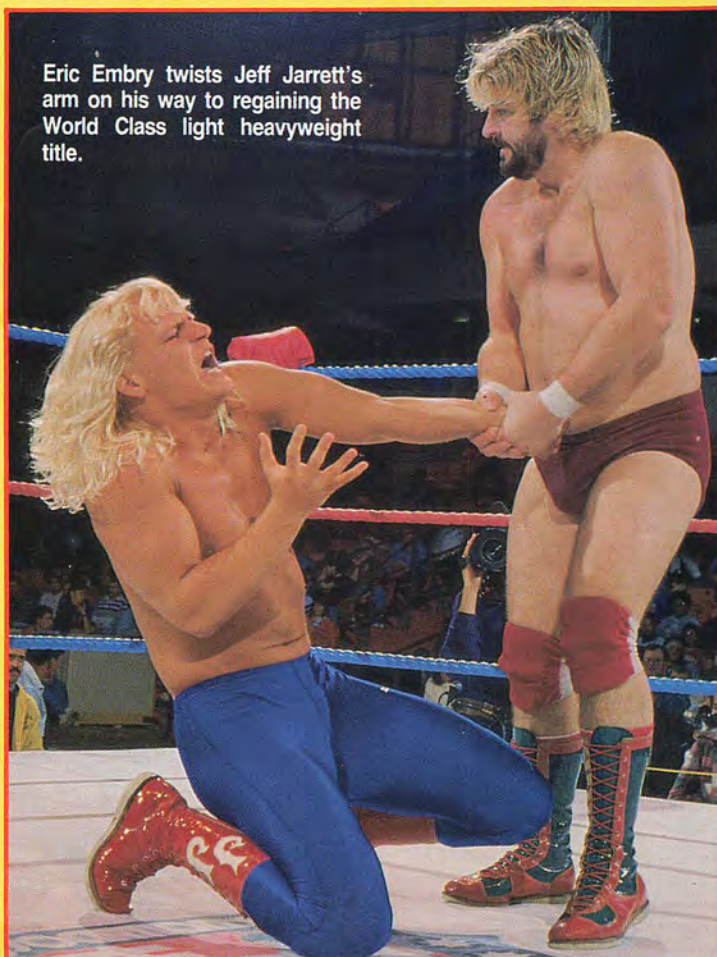


WRESTLING'S HOTTEST WINTER

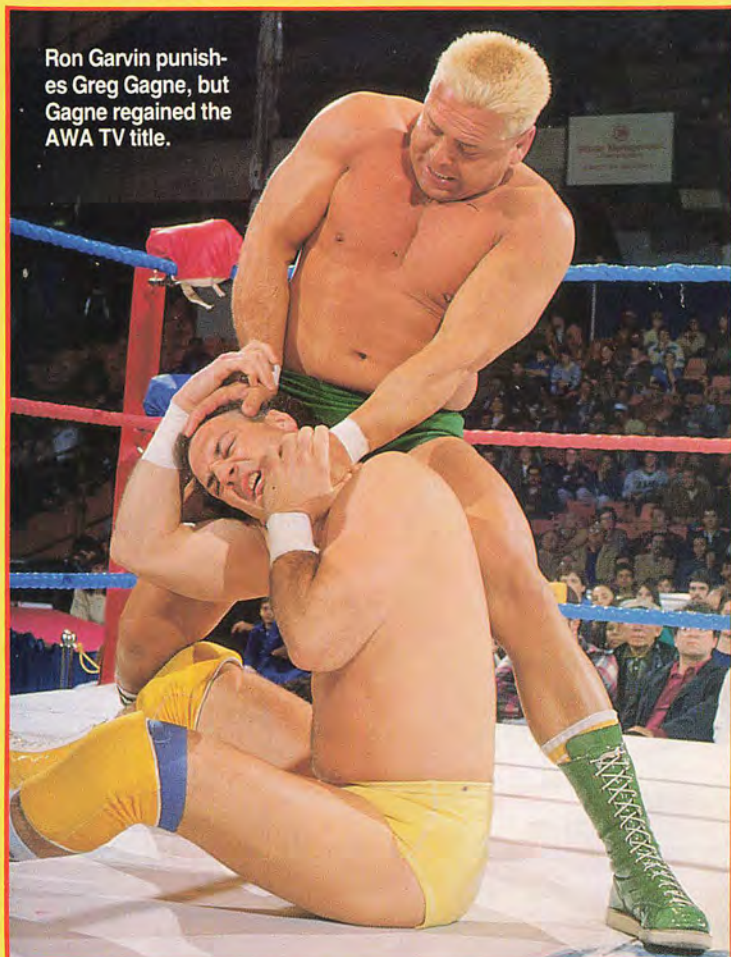
SUPERCLASH III



With the AWA World title and Jerry Lawler's skull in his grasp (above left), Kerry Von Erch is forced to endure the ultimate disappointment when the match is stopped in Lawler's favor due to excessive bleeding on Kerry's part; Lawler was awarded Kerry's World Class title. Sgt. Slaughter makes Col. DeBeers submit to his cobra clutch (above right). Manny Fernandez unloads on Wahoo McDaniel during their brutal Indian strap match won by McDaniel (right).



Eric Embry twists Jeff Jarrett's arm on his way to regaining the World Class light heavyweight title.



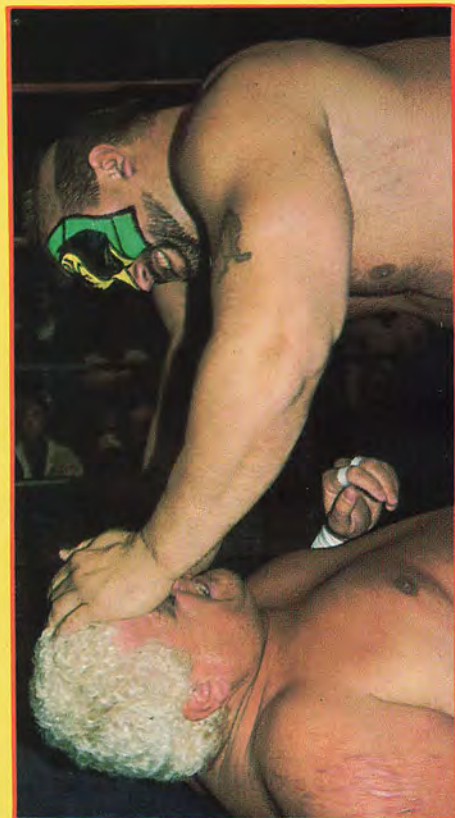
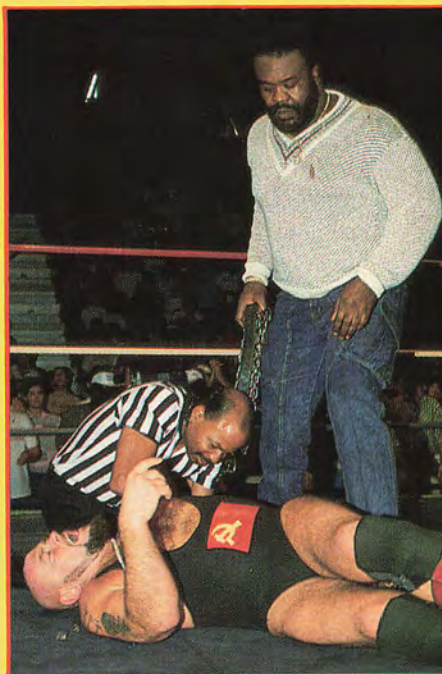
Ron Garvin punishes Greg Gagne, but Gagne regained the AWA TV title.

WRESTLING'S HOTTEST WINTER

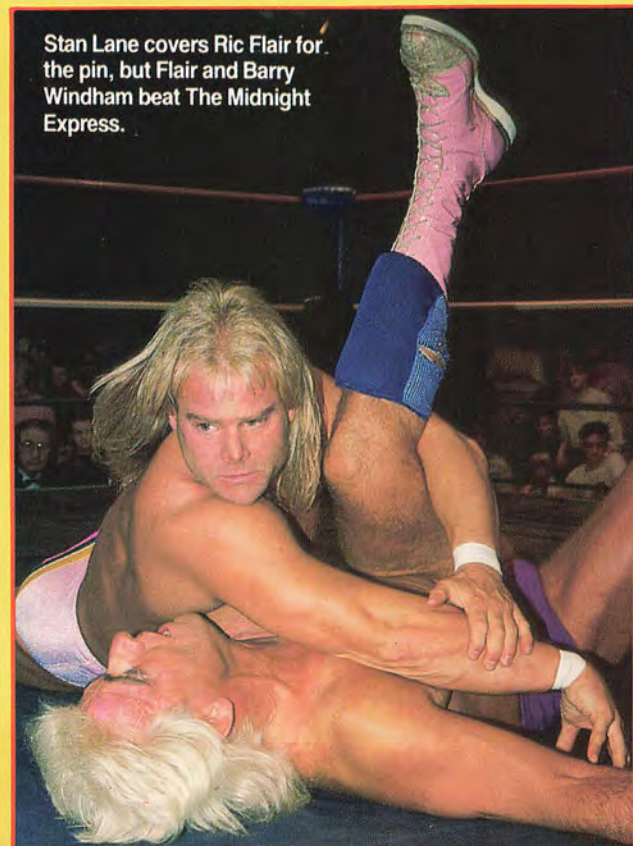
SEASON'S BEATINGS



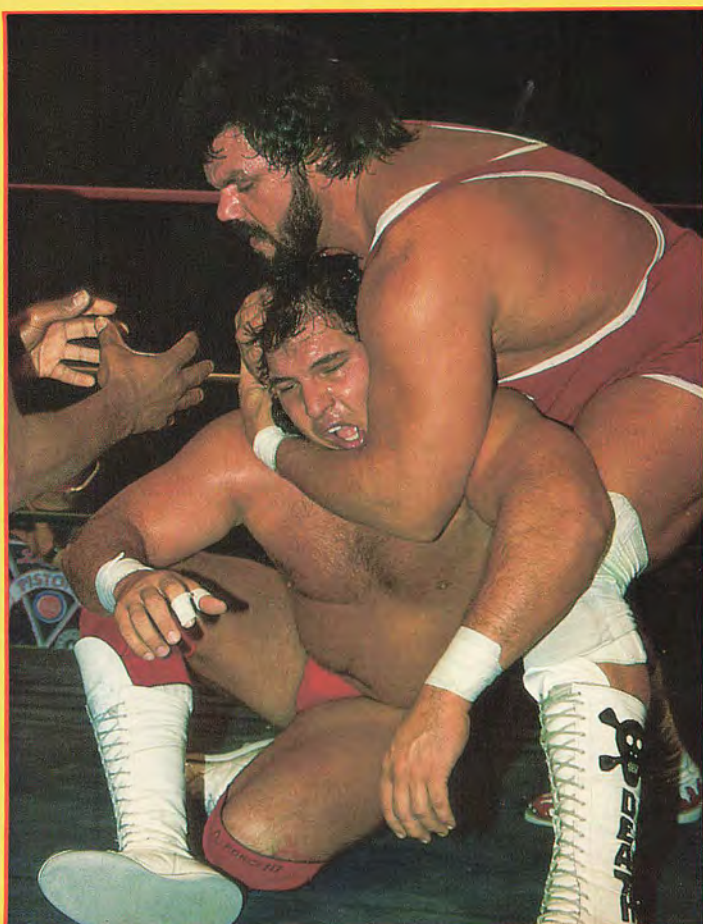
Eddie Gilbert and Tommy Rogers struggle for an advantage (above left) as The Fantastics win the U.S. tag team title. Junkyard Dog comes to Ivan Koloff's aid (above right).



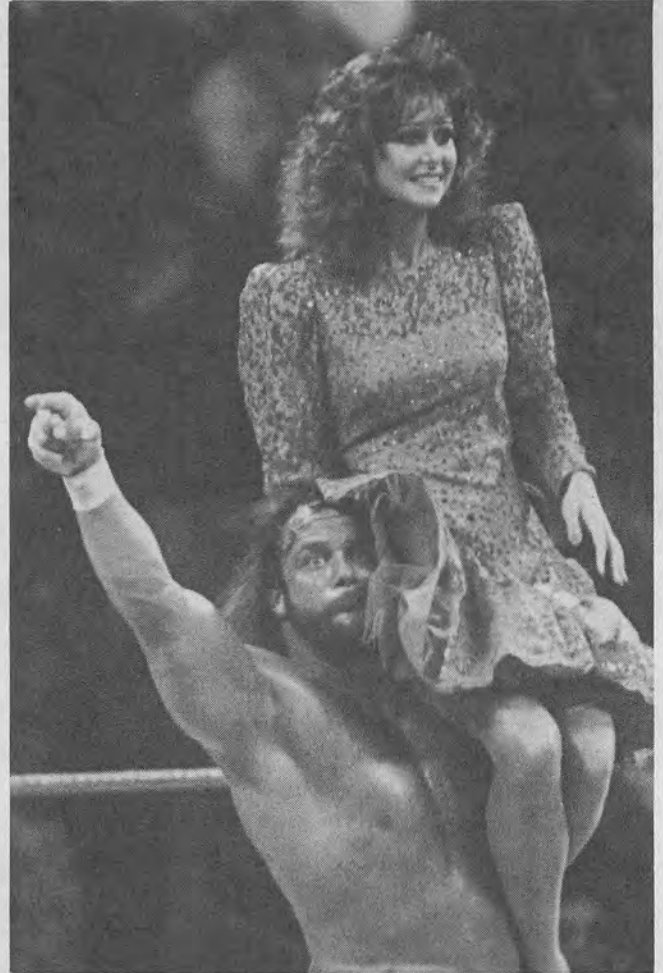
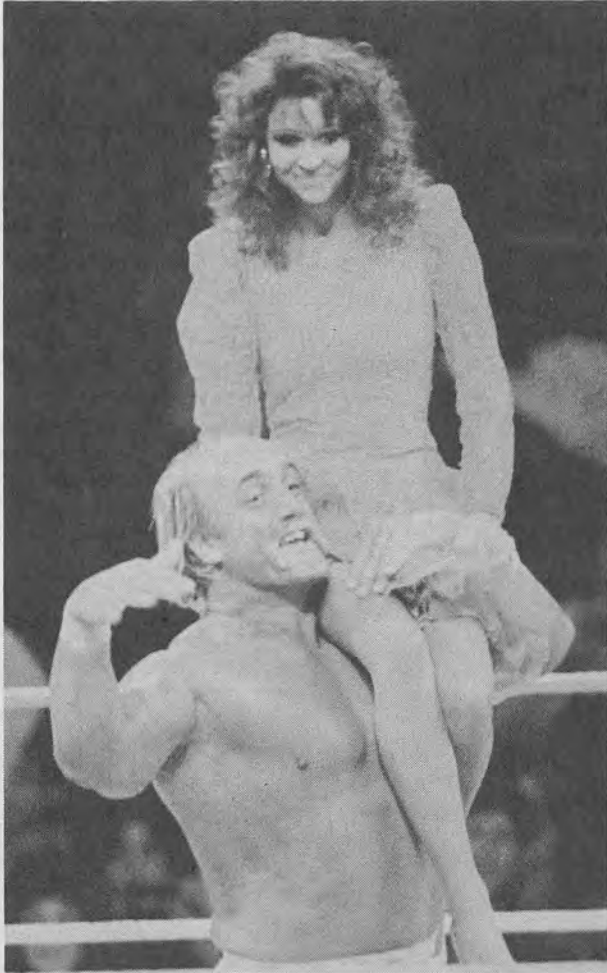
Animal gouges Dusty Rhodes' injured eye (above); Dusty won by DQ. Steve Williams chinlocks Italian Stallion in one of his first Varsity Club wins (below).



Stan Lane covers Ric Flair for the pin, but Flair and Barry Windham beat The Midnight Express.



Message To Hogan & Savage:



FORGET ELIZABETH— JUST WRESTLE!

By Stu Saks

WRESTLING IS, ABOVE all, a sport. If we remember that, we can put matches and feuds in their proper perspective. Sgt. Slaughter may battle The

Iron Sheik or Col. DeBeers for the pride of America, but the outcome of the feud will do little to solve the problems in the Middle East or South Africa.

Indeed, wrestlers wrestle for the love of the *sport*; they hunger for new competition and new challenges. True, personality often comes into play and ignites feuds

Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage could be the most powerful duo in the history of wrestling. But they're both forgetting why they're in the sport to begin with. They're allowing the charms of Elizabeth to distract them—perhaps to the point where a Hogan-Savage feud is inevitable!



that heat up the competition, but the importance of a feud is often lost in victory or defeat. It soon becomes apparent that a wrestler didn't care *whom* he beat, he just wanted to *win*.

"The first instinct after a win is to exult in the victory and take pride in the hard work and strategy it took to win the match," NWA World champion Ric Flair has said. "Only later do you remember who you beat and why it was important to beat him."

All of which brings us to the current situation brewing in the WWF. At press time, friction seemed to be forming between World champion Randy Savage and friend and occasional partner Hulk Hogan. The Megapowers alliance that was made in heaven appears destined for destruction, thanks to Savage's jealousy over his lovely manager Elizabeth.

The fact that Hogan is married with a baby daughter means nothing to Savage. All he can remember is the sight of Hogan hugging Elizabeth at the end of the Survivor Series. It is an image that burns in his mind, a sight that torments him at night.

Hogan, on the other hand, probably has no romantic interest in Elizabeth. But he is not the



kind of man to back down when challenged, especially with the WWF World title on the line. The "Hulkster" prizes the belt the way Savage prizes Elizabeth; Savage's challenge—whether a product of Hogan's own imagination or not—gives him the opportunity to regain it.

This has all the makings of an unforgettable, brutal feud that could end with one man never showing his face in a wrestling ring—or at least a WWF ring—again. It would be a battle of love

and pride, an intense clash with serious emotional overtones that could culminate at WrestleMania V in front of a giant crowd, hypnotized and held captive by this romantic war.

Or so it seems.

In reality, the bottom line in this battle would be for the WWF World title, not Elizabeth. Savage and Hogan, after all, are *wrestlers*. Their battle over this woman can be taken care of outside the ring; wrestling is a sport, after all, not *The Love Connection* gone

As an enemy, Hogan knocks Savage into the ropes during their lumberjack match (left). As a friend, at SummerSlam, Hogan puts the sleeper on Ted DiBiase while Savage goes after Andre the Giant (below).

haywire. It is a battle of athletic skills, not a test of who can bring his lady the loveliest roses or take her for the finest dinners.

No, this is a test of two of the greatest athletes in the world, two fearsome ring gladiators with one common goal: the World championship gold. For when this battle is finally waged—if it is waged—people will only remember who won and lost, not who got the girl and who lost her.

It is foolish for Savage to be so preoccupied with Elizabeth when

so many challenges await him in the ring. His love for Elizabeth is understandable. She is a beautiful woman who comes to the ring wearing the finest dresses and gowns; she is a fine public speaker and an outstanding example for young women. She carries herself with poise and elegance. Most of all, she is loyal to Savage, the man to whom she has devoted her life.

But she is also too naive to realize that her friendship with Hogan is tearing Savage apart. It is not her fault. It is, in fact, entirely Savage's fault. Big Bossman, Andre the Giant, Bad News Brown, and King Haku would like nothing more than to pound him into the ground. Savage's concentration should be fully on the task at hand. Plus, he fails to realize the value of his friendship with Hogan; they are an *awesome* alliance.

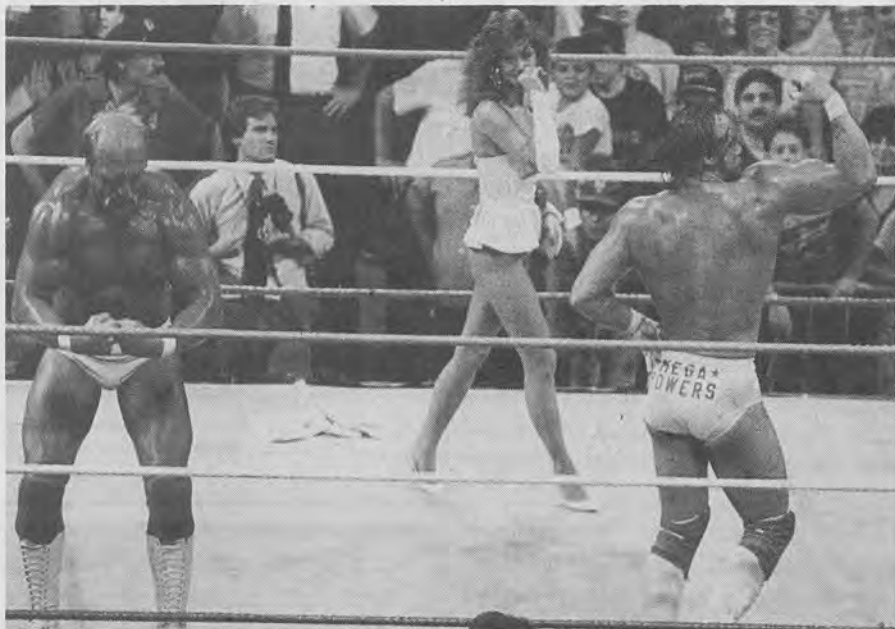
If they must wrestle, however, it should be for the right reasons. Savage has the belt, Hogan wants it. The test of athletic superiority is interesting enough. Outside influences aren't needed; they are unnecessary distractions to the wrestlers, the fans, and to Elizabeth, who is caught in the middle of a situation she did nothing to create.

The Hogan-Savage wars were the highlights of Hogan's four years as champion. Savage, the complete wrestler, posed the ultimate test to Hogan. He brought the "Hulkster's" skills up to a level never before reached. In fact, Hogan's proudest achievement as champion was his ability to overcome Savage's challenge. They were magnificent matches that will never be forgotten.

Let's say, for argument's sake, that Hogan actually *is* interested in Elizabeth, be it for her love or for her managerial skills. Now let's assume that Hogan wins his battle against Savage and, therefore, wins Elizabeth. What would



Savage executes a kneedrop on Hogan in their lumberjack match in 1986 (above) While Hogan and Savage flex to impress Elizabeth (below). If Hogan and Savage ever do square off in the ring again, it will be for the World title, not for Elizabeth.



happen next? Hogan would have to step into the ring the next day with the ability he always had; the same would be true of Savage.

For these men are *wrestlers*, above all else. They are athletes

who have chosen to pursue a career in the ring. It is a noble pursuit. And it is the precise reason for our urgent message to Hogan and Savage:

Forget Elizabeth. Just wrestle! □

HOTSEAT

RONNIE GARVIN

"MONEY IS THE BOTTOM LINE!"

WHO'S THE BUSIEST competitor in wrestling? You'd be hard-pressed to find a more active man than Ronnie Garvin. In December, Garvin (1) made his WWF debut; (2) continued to fight off challengers to his AWA TV title, and (3) was active in defending his WWC Universal title. Even a busy man like Jerry Lawler would have trouble keeping up with the schedule of this rugged Canadian veteran!

Garvin, who held the NWA World title for two months in 1987, is as confusing as he is busy. In the WWF, he wrestles in a strictly scientific fashion; in the AWA and WWC, Garvin doesn't even seem like the same man. He's long been known for his "hands of stone," the most lethal knockout punch in wrestling, but many believe that he used a foreign object, not a clean punch, to kayo Greg Gagne and win the AWA TV title on September 17 in Nashville.

Among those who believe so is AWA President Stanley Blackburn. Just days before SuperClash III on December 13 in Chicago, Blackburn stripped Garvin of the TV belt, putting it up for grabs to the winner of the Garvin-Gagne SuperClash match. Gagne defeated Garvin by countout to win the match and the title, but Garvin doesn't seem all that bothered by the

loss. After all, he's still got the WWC's top title, and now he's out to make a name for himself in the WWF.

Senior Editor Bill Apter spoke with a surprisingly upbeat Garvin just hours after he lost to Gagne at SuperClash III.

Q: Ronnie, you really seem to be a changed man since the last time we talked. First, you turned against Dusty Rhodes for a price right be-

Gagne for the TV title. You also knocked out Carlos Colon after feigning a sprained ankle. That's not the Garvin I used to know.

A: Well, I like to collect titles, and I wanted those belts—but I'm not trying to fool anybody. *Everybody* in wrestling knows that my main weapon is my hands, and if my opponents don't know that by now, they deserve what they get. It's the same old story—I knock out people, they complain about it, I get blasted in the press. But I've never used a foreign object in my life, Bill. Why would I need an object to knock out Greg Gagne? Hey, my foes are just going to have to get used to it. I'm certainly not going to change my style because a few guys can't take it.

Q: Are you upset over the way Gagne won the belt back from you?

A: How can I be upset? First of all, they stripped me of my title *three months* after I won it from Verne's darling boy. Next, he wins a flimsy countout decision and they just hand him the belt. Well, good for him, I hope he's proud of himself. I knew that the AWA was Gagneland even before I came here, but I never knew things were quite *this* bad. It looks like all the federation officials care about is

“
Everybody in wrestling knows that my main weapon is my hands, and if my opponents don't know that by now, they deserve what they get.
”

fore you left the NWA. Then, you went right on rulebreaking in the AWA and the WWC. But the most amazing thing of all is that you're now in the WWF while still competing in those other areas; that's really rare these days! And almost everybody thinks you used a foreign object to beat Greg





“

When [fans] spend \$15 for a ticket to see me, they know they're not going to get any B.S. from me. But they are gonna see a fight.

”

protecting that little twerp. But that's okay. I have new horizons I'm looking forward to.

Q: Apparently, those new horizons are in the WWF. Why have you decided to compete there?

A: Well, everybody in this country is motivated by money, right? Money is the bottom line, pal. Anyone in any line of business moves on if he gets a better offer. As it turns out, I've gotten a *tremendous* offer from the WWF, and I'd be crazy not to accept it. I'm ready to take on the best that they have there, and I'm convinced that I'm going to do well.

Q: It's going to be hard to top some of your past success, though. You've already held the NWA World championship, and you won it as a fan favorite. In your initial WWF appearances, you've wrestled scientifically against opponents like Greg Valentine. I'm a bit confused



by all this.

A: Well, I've *always* been a fan favorite, basically. There are people who don't always agree with the way I wrestle, but I think the majority of the fans like my style. When they spend \$15 for a ticket to see me, they know they're not going to get any B.S. from me. They're not gonna get any ring entrance music, no smoke bombs, no strutting around. But they *are* gonna see a fight.

Q: But WWF fans are commenting that they're also not seeing much of your "hands of stone" during your early appearances there. You've been using a piledriver as your main finishing maneuver lately.

A: Hey, my fists aren't my *only* asset, you know! I've got a great piledriver, a fabulous sleeper, and so many other holds in my repertoire that I can't even count them. I'm a lot more than just a brawler, you know.

Q: Certainly. You're going to need everything in your arsenal if the WWF title is one of your goals. To do that, you'll have to defeat Ran-

dy Savage. Have you ever wrestled him before?

A: Yeah, a few years ago in the old ICW in Memphis. I could take him then, and I'm sure I can take him now. Don't get me wrong, though. Savage is a great competitor, and he's a great champion. He's quite a man. But in any profession, if you've got a man's number, you've got it for life. And I know in my heart that I've definitely got Savage's number.

Q: What's your opinion of Hulk Hogan? If you want to wrestle Savage, you may have to get past the "Hulkster" first.

A: Hogan? I like the man, I really do. He's been phenomenally successful. But as a wrestler, I think I can beat him, too. You know, my record is second to none in this sport. I beat Andre the Giant . . .

Q: What? You defeated Andre? Where did this take place?

A: Look it up in the record books, Bill. I beat Andre in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1977. Of course, ev-

Ronnie Garvin gets the worst of a lockup with Carlos Colon (top left). Greg Gagne executes a sunset flip on Garvin (below); Garvin lost the AWA TV title to Gagne at SuperClash III.





Garvin is jubilant after winning the NWA World title in September 1987. Garvin, who now calls himself "Rugged Ron," has won many important titles throughout his career. Now he has his eye on the WWF championships.



“

It won't be long before I win the World belt, the Intercontinental belt, I don't care what. I just love collecting belts.

”

champion Jerry Lawler. Do you have any advice for him?

A: Not really. I don't think he needs any advice at all. He's his own man. A lot of people ask why I don't tag with Jimmy anymore, but it's got *nothing* to do with any family problems. I'm just not comfortable as a tag team wrestler. I'm more interested in singles pursuits. I'll always be Jimmy's biggest supporter, regardless of where I am or who I'm wrestling.

Q: But where *will* you be? Are you going to defend the Universal title?

A: Sure. I won the belt, so I'm obligated to defend it. But right now, my main goal is to become one of the biggest stars in the WWF. I feel like I'm better now than I've ever been, and it won't be long until I win the World belt, the Intercontinental belt, I don't *care* what. Like I said before, I just love collecting belts. □

everybody knows that Hogan defeated that giant, too. So it would be very interesting to find out who can beat who. I'll wrestle anybody, and I mean *anybody*. Fan favorite, rulebreaker, I don't care. I'm in this business for the money.

Q: Speaking of money, there are several managers in the WWF who could probably help you line your pockets. There's Slick, Bobby Heenan, and Jimmy Hart, among others. Would you consider using the services of any of these men?

A: Not really. I've never been interested in a manager. One of the main reasons I left the NWA is that after I turned against Dusty Rhodes I had a bunch of those bloodsuckers asking me for favors. There's no way I'd do that.

Q: Terry Garvin, your older brother, works in the WWF front office. Could it be that you'll get preferential treatment from WWF officials because of that?

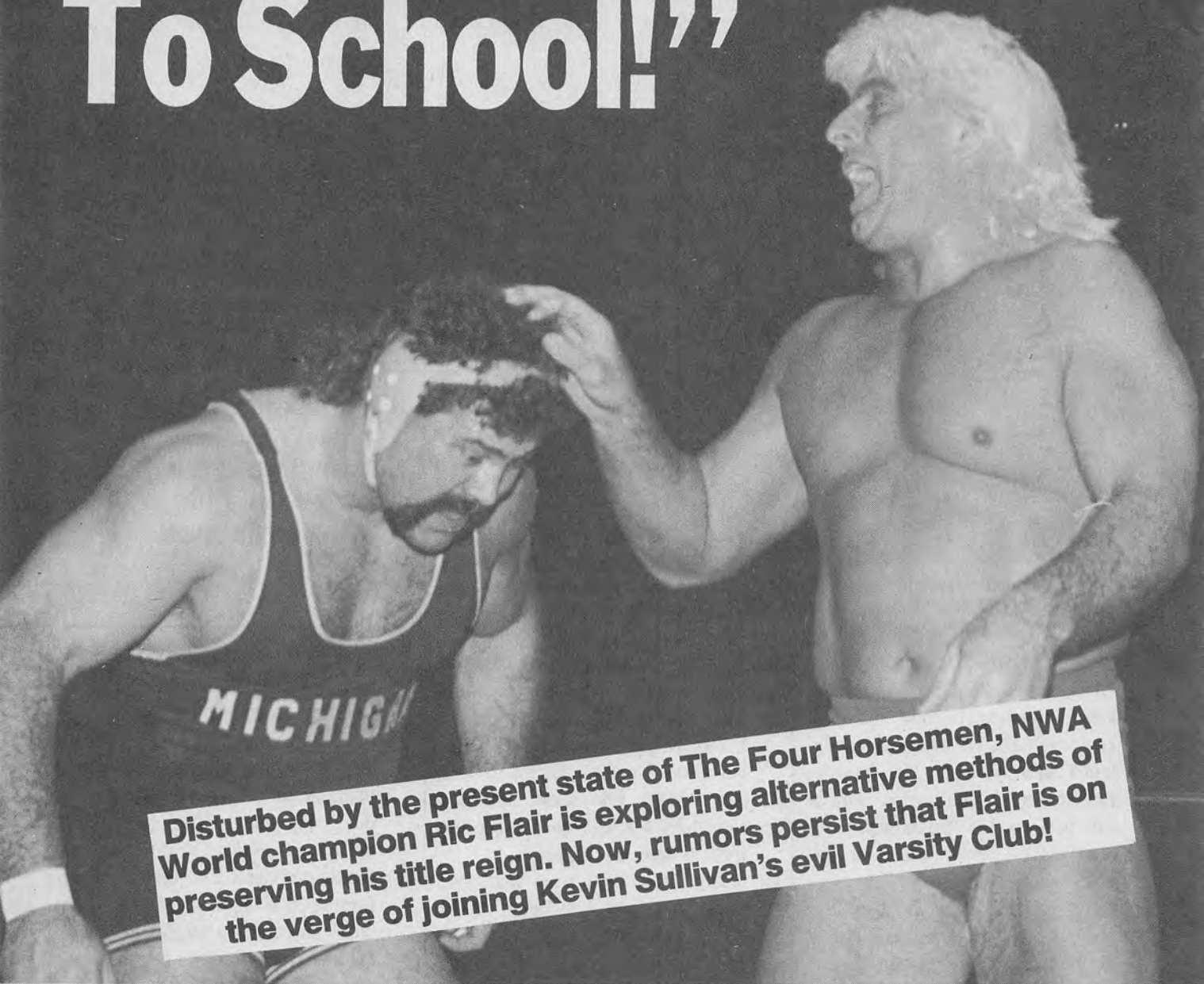
A: No way. To get title matches, you have to prove yourself in the ring. I don't think it would help even if I was WWF President Jack Tunney's son. I realize that I'll have to *earn* WWF title shots, and it's something I'll have to do, because that's where the money is.

Q: Really? After that scam that you, Gary Hart, and J.J. Dillon pulled off in the NWA, it wouldn't surprise me to see you make some payments to Terry in order to get ahead a little faster.

A: You don't trust me like you used to, do you Bill? That's okay, but I know that you know Terry, and you should realize he's not the kind of a man to take a bribe. I want to get title shots the old-fashioned way—I'll *earn* them.

Q: Your other brother, Jimmy Garvin, is now wrestling in the ACW and World Class areas. He recently told me that he'd love to get some title matches against AWA World

“Now We’re Going To School!”



Disturbed by the present state of The Four Horsemen, NWA World champion Ric Flair is exploring alternative methods of preserving his title reign. Now, rumors persist that Flair is on the verge of joining Kevin Sullivan's evil Varsity Club!

THE PHONE RANG and Ric Flair stepped out of the shower in his downtown Atlanta apartment. To avoid staying in hotels whenever possible, the NWA World champion has purchased several luxury condominiums around the country. This one, a spacious duplex with high ceilings, is located just minutes from both The Omni and the TBS broadcast studios. It is where Flair

By David Rosenbaum

conducts a great deal of important business.

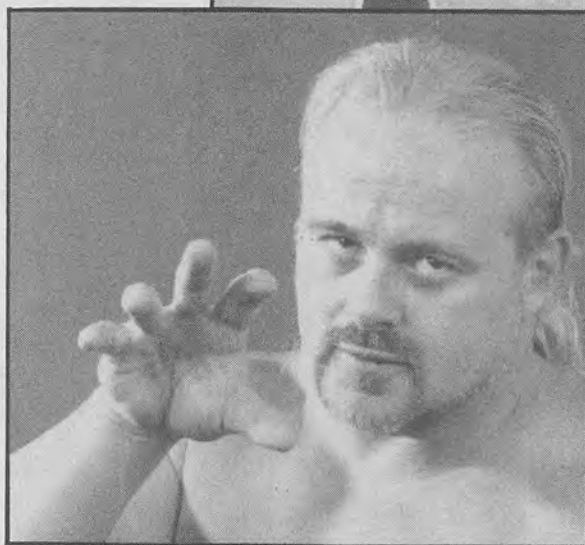
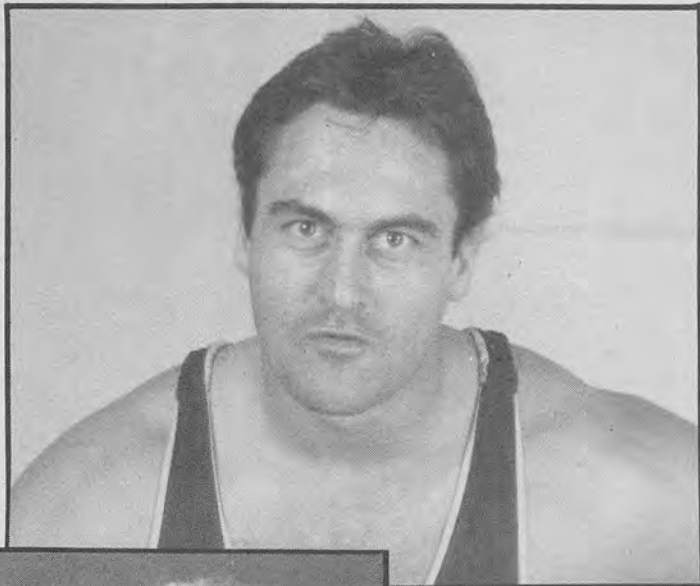
On this weekend, however, Flair is at the apartment for a special reason: He is awaiting an important phone call. But, as he picks up the receiver, it's obvious that this is not the call he's been waiting for.

"No, I gave at the office," Flair

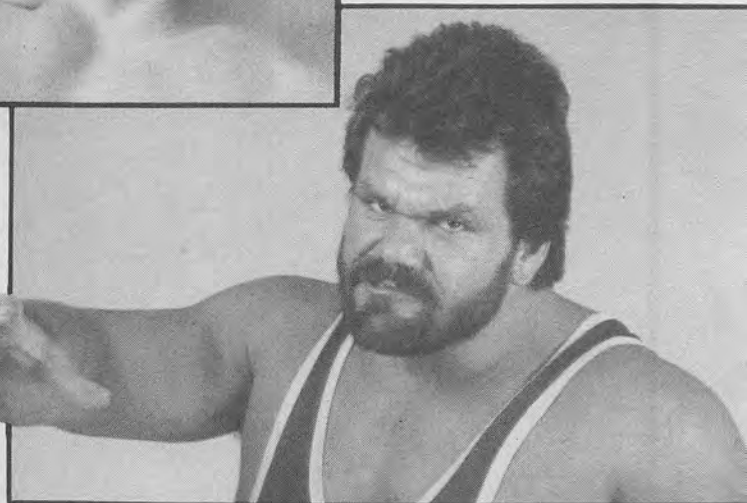
shouted before slamming the phone back onto the hook. Then, as he turned to walk back to the bathroom, he looked over his shoulder at his guest, who had been waiting patiently for over an hour. "That's how you treat these lazy miscreants," he said. "There's nothing I hate worse than a beggar."

His words, however, seem strange when one considers how

RIC FLAIR'S SECRET PACT WITH THE VARSITY CLUB



Mike Rotundo (above), Kevin Sullivan (left), and Steve Williams (below) comprise The Varsity Club. There are rumors they've had secret talks with Ric Flair (opposite page) who has been wrestling former Varsity Club member Rick Steiner.



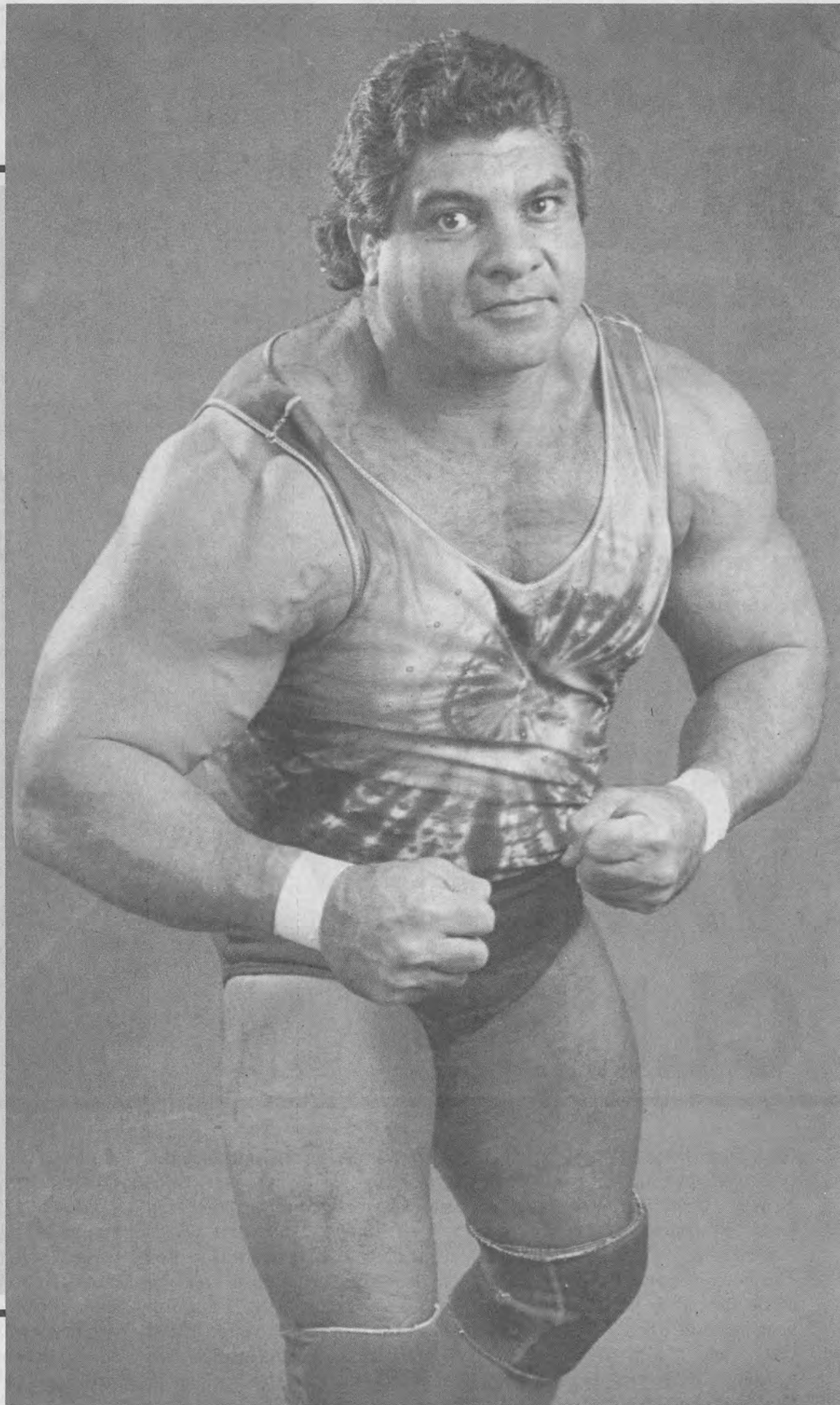
often Flair is, in fact, in the position of beggar: begging for mercy, that is, while under assault by a challenger in control. And since Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard left The Four Horsemen and the NWA in October, Flair has found himself begging more than ever; only J.J. Dillon and Barry Windham are available to save him, but too often they're somewhere else.

It is a situation that must be disturbing to Flair. For over three years he managed to surround himself with friends who were always at his disposal. Whenever Flair was on the verge of losing a bout, he could always depend on Dillon, Anderson, or Blanchard to save him. It was a cozy arrangement. Flair has remained champion for so long in large part because his opponents

are at a constant four-on-one disadvantage.

Because Flair no longer has that luxury, he might have to look elsewhere for help. Indeed, strong rumors have circulated within NWA inner circles that Flair has met several times with Kevin Sullivan, leader of The Varsity Club. With three wrestling members, there's little

(Continued on page 58)



Now Off The WWF Treadmill . . . DON MURACO IS MAGNIFICENT AGAIN!

By Andy Rodriguez

ELEVEN WEEKS IS a short time in the career of any professional athlete. For Don Muraco, however, 11 weeks was all the time he needed to turn a floundering outlook for the future into a rejuvenated, promising career. Consider:

September 29, 1988: Greg Valentine scores a wild victory over Don Muraco at the Miami Arena in Florida. Valentine removes the steel shin guard from his left leg and crashes it over Muraco's head in order to gain the pin.

December 9, 1988: Muraco, now out of the WWF and wrestling in the Stampede area, captures the North

American championship from Makhan Singh in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Muraco uses a small package to pin the 380-pound giant's shoulders to the mat.

There's a world of difference between the sunny climes of Miami and the cold, wintery bluster of Alberta. Yet it was in this most unlikely of settings that Muraco brought new life into a career that needed a boost.

"It's a new world in Stampede," said a beaming Muraco after the title victory. "I've only been in this federation for a few weeks, and I've already captured one of the top titles in the sport. Back in the WWF, I wrestled the same

opponents over and over and waited in vain for title shots. Yeah, Don Muraco is a champion again. It sounds so good just to be able to say it."

Muraco has proven that he is "Magnificent" again. No longer mired in the vast WWF talent pool, Muraco is active, vibrant, and looking forward to defending his championship with pride. To do it, he had to take stock of himself—and make the bold decision to leave the federation where he enjoyed his greatest success.

"Actually, I wouldn't have dreamed that leaving the WWF would be the best thing for me," said Muraco, an

(Continued on page 60)

Four years after losing the Intercontinental title, Don Muraco was in a holding pattern in the WWF. After only a few weeks in Stampede, however, Muraco is wrestling better than ever—and now he's captured the coveted North American title!

The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One on One

ONE ON ONE



"Dusty Rhodes ain't scared of no one and I ain't backin' down. You can punch out my eye, but you can't punch out my pride, brother."

—Dusty Rhodes

LOOKING AT THE war currently raging between Dusty Rhodes and The Road Warriors, you would hardly think that, as recently as early October, Rhodes and the Warriors were friends—and co-holders of the NWA six-man tag team title.

It fact, it was an October 7 defense of that title that was the impetus for the feud. Rhodes was unable to join Hawk and Animal in a match against Rick Steiner, Mike Rotundo, and Kevin Sullivan, as he was making an appearance at a charity event; Sting took Rhodes' place. The Warriors dominated the bout, but when Sting took the tag and captured Rotundo in a scorpion leglock, the Warriors violently attacked their partner. Chaos ensued, Sting was carried out of the ring on a stretcher, and the Warriors had served notice that they were rulebreakers once again.

Then, on November 26 at a TBS taping in Atlanta, Rhodes responded to six weeks of innuendo and insult aimed his way by the Warriors. Rhodes climbed into the ring in street clothes and challenged the Warriors. Animal and Hawk responded. After a vicious double-teaming attack, the Warriors made their move: Animal held Rhodes to the mat as Hawk unscrewed a steel spike from his ring outfit and gouged at Rhodes' right eye.

Now, doctors are uncertain whether Dusty will ever regain full sight in his eye, the Warriors are on a horrifying rampage of terror, and Rhodes has sworn revenge. A one-on-one bout between Rhodes and Animal at the December 7 Clash of the Champions saw Animal win by disqualification and claim the six-man title for himself, Hawk, and a partner to be named later.

With all this turmoil, it comes as no surprise that Rhodes and Animal agreed so easily to square off ... "One on One."

DUSTY RHODES:

Lemme tell ya something, "American Dream" Dusty Rhodes ain't scared of no one, and I ain't backin' down. Like my forefathers, and their forefathers, and everybody before them, the Rhodes family has great tradition. I might have less eye, but I have more heart and soul than you'll ever have. You can punch out my eye, but you can't punch out my pride, brother.

ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL:

You know something, Rhodes? You are dumber than you look. You can put all your pride in one hand,

DR:

**RWA:
DR:**

RWA:

spit in the other, and see which one gets filled up first. Pride's not gonna do you a damn bit of good when you're blind in both eyes with 30 or 40 broken bones. Go ahead and try, brother, but it ain't gonna work. Nobody's gotten the "American Dream" down yet, and nobody's goin' to. There are wrestlers, and there's Dusty Rhodes, there's competitors, and there's Dusty Rhodes, there's champions, and there's Dusty Rhodes, there's ... Cows, and then there's pigs. Go ahead and say what you want, Road Warrior Animal, but you ain't never gonna get the best of me. The best of you was left on the floor of the barber shop when you got that ridiculous

N ONE



"You haven't got a gnat's chance in hell of getting out of this war in one piece. You started it, and [me and Hawk are] gonna finish it."

—Road Warrior Animal

- DR:** haircut of yours . . .
- DR:** The voice of experience.
- RWA:** . . . but you know something, blubber-butt? You're so damn chummy with the fans, you have all this to say about pride and honor, but all you do is use people for yourself. At least me an' Hawk never made any bones about it, we *like* using people and kicking butt. But we bailed your sorry can out of trouble more times than I can count . . .
- DR:** Probably no more than up to three or four.
- RWA:** . . . and you didn't have guts enough to show up for a match against Steiner, Rotundo, and Sullivan.
- DR:** Don't you go talking about guts, brother, when I've got more guts than you'll *ever*

have. I was doin' somethin' for charity that night, Special Olympics brother, kids who need a big brother . . .

- RWA:** Very big.
- DR:** . . . to help them out, something you wouldn't know about. Why I wasn't there had nothin' to do with guts, it had to do with priorities, helpin' out the less fortunate, the crippled, the . . .
- RWA:** I get the drift, Rhodes, you're talkin' about *self-help*.
- DR:** I've had enough of your wisecracks, Animule, if you wanna get it on right now, you tell me where to meet and I'll be there.
- RWA:** Just like you were there for the six-man title match? Thanks, but I want to make sure you actually *show up* for a change. *I'll* choose the

time, *I'll* choose the place, and *I'll* kick your sorry butt from Atlanta to Philadelphia to Los Angeles and back again, not an easy feat considering the size of that butt. Now let me tell you one thing, Animule, you can say what you want about my size, you can say what you want about the way I wrestle, but don't you *ever* accuse me of backin' down to *nothin'*. I've been in this sport for 20 years, and I ain't *never* backed down to no one. You and Hawk can go on talkin' out of your butts, but this is one man with plenty of pride. I been chasin' people like you my entire life, and by the time I'm through, you're gonna be just like the rest: beaten and hurt.

RWA: In your dreams, tubby. Me and Hawk, we snack on danger and we dine on death, and we take that motto seriously. *That's* why we've been named Tag Team of the Year *four times*, and that's why you haven't got a gnat's chance in hell of getting out of this war in one piece. You started it, Rhodes, and we're gonna finish it.

DR: You gonna finish nothin', boy. You tried to do a number on my man Sting, but he bounced right back, just like he always does. You stole the belts from Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton, but they're gonna get them right back once they're done with Paul E. Dangerously's imposters. You turned your back on the fans, but they don't care, because they got plenty of men, like me and Sting and Lex, that'll always stay right with them. You guys are alone, and alone is the loneliest place to be. Take that, sucker.

RWA: Lonely? Maybe. Maybe not. But we're meaner than you'll *ever* see. And you ain't gonna be seeing for much longer, Rhodes. Say goodbye to your health. And while you're at it, say goodbye to your sight, too. Your career is about to end, and it'll be a pleasure for us to end it for you. □

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 7)



Akeem was taken a lot more seriously as a wrestler when he was known as One Man Gang, writes Richard Mayhew, who is no fan of the WWF.

Other wrestlers have come to the WWF looking for the big time and got nowhere: D.J. Peterson, Brad Rheingans, Dick Slater, Scott Casey, and many others. You have to give Slater and Bam Bam Bigelow credit: They had the brains to move on to other federations before Vince McMahon and the WWF curse ruined their careers.

RICHARD MAYHEW
Clearville, PA

DR. DEATH'S LOSS ...

I admired the way Steve Williams turned against his "beloved" fans. And another thing: I can't imagine why it took so long for him to finally succumb to Kevin Sullivan's money.

Unlike lowlife scum such as Barry Windham, Ronnie Garvin, and The Road Warriors, who turned against their partners during very important matches, Williams showed many of us that he still has true wrestling spirit. He didn't wait to team up with any of those fan favorites and then horribly betray them. Instead, he made his public announcement outside the ring that he had joined The Varsity Club.

But, with Williams joining The Varsity Club as a rulebreaker, his chances of getting title shots at Ric Flair, Barry Windham, Mike Rotundo, and The Road Warriors are remote. I guess the money he's been offered by Sullivan is much better than the pride of owning a world title. It's a pity.

JASON BAHADUR
Miami

... IS STEINER'S LOSS, TOO

Rick Steiner has just thrown his career away. Leaving The Varsity Club was the worst mistake he could have made. I know the man is not stupid, but he *does* act childish, and therefore needed the guidance of Kevin Sullivan.

In The Varsity Club, Steiner had a superb tag team partner in Mike Rotundo, a shrewd manager in Kevin Sullivan, and, most importantly, the opportunity to learn from two masters of the game.

Had Steiner not acted like an infant and listened to the advice offered by Rotundo and Sullivan, he might have evolved into a grappler who could win championships on his own. Instead, Steiner was more concerned with seeing Sullivan in a Michigan jacket and making fun of Rotundo and his alma mater, Syracuse University. Not surprisingly, he was kicked out of The Varsity Club.

It now looks like Steiner will be learning his lessons the hard way as he embarks on a series of title matches against Rotundo. Rotundo has met and defeated many opponents who were more skilled than Steiner. Steiner has always had somebody in his cor-

ner. Without guidance, Steiner will be as helpless as the infant he chooses to act like.

A word of advice to Steiner: Find a knowledgeable manager and grow up!

RICK HOLMES
Franklin, MA

DUMP GORDON

I think it is an outrage that Randy Gordon was chosen Chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission. As a past editor of your family of magazines (and former "Behind The Dressing Room Door" columnist), he pulled cruel jokes on wrestlers he did not like and admitted to affecting the outcome of at least one match. Chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission? Be serious!

DAVID MOTS
Honolulu

(Continued on page 54)

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 52)

STING: TARGET 1990

"Sting is the best young wrestler today." We've heard that statement a million times before, but it's true. Whoever wrote the article about how Sting won't defeat Barry Windham ("10 Reasons Why Sting Cannot Defeat Barry Windham," January 1989) better step back and look at what Sting has accomplished in his three years as a pro, especially this past year.

Sting won the Crockett Cup with Lex Luger, took Ric Flair to a 45-minute draw on March 27, and improves and widens his skills every day.

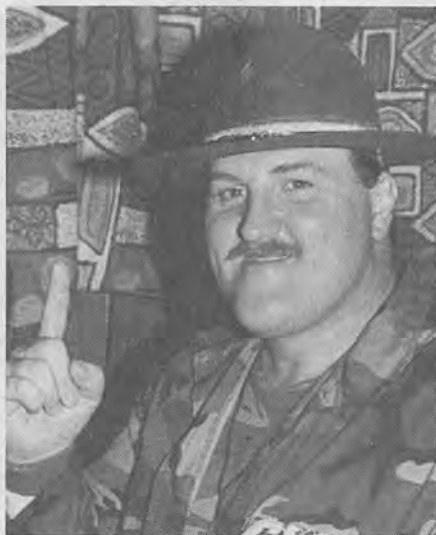
The best part about it is that he is eager to learn more! Sting is the kind of individual who listens to advice and tries to make himself a better person because of it.

It's just a matter of time before he becomes a champion. My prediction is that Sting will be the wrestler of the '90s, just as Flair is the wrestler of the '80s.

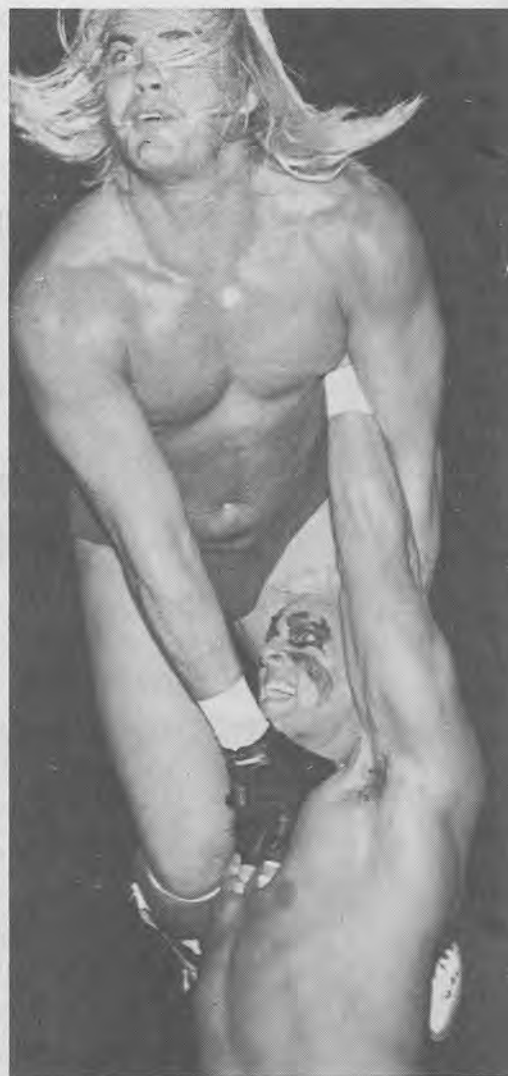
DANIELLE BRAWN
Massillon, OH

PATRIOTIC SLAUGHTER

If Sgt. Slaughter spent more time concentrating on wrestling and less time defending the United States, may-



Sgt. Slaughter should concentrate more on pure wrestling than on worrying about defending America. That's the opinion of Tim Leonard, who thinks the Sarge would have a major title if he just *wrestled*.



Sting gets ready to press-slam Barry Windham, who has so far held off Sting's attempts to win the U.S. title. Reader Danielle Brawn predicts that Sting will be the dominant wrestler of the 1990s.

be he'd have a major title by this time. Instead, he's more worried about The Iron Sheik, Col. DeBeers, and Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, three men who have nothing to do with any world title.

I love my country, but I'm content having the U.S. Army and good men like Ronald Reagan and George Bush defending this great nation. Slaughter says he's "back to answer America's call" ("Hotseat," February 1989), but I didn't hear anybody calling him.

I have one message for the Sarge: Stop waving the flag and start wrestling. That way, you won't have to

(Continued on page 56)



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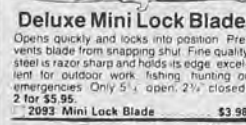
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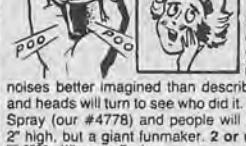
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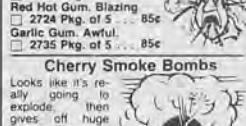
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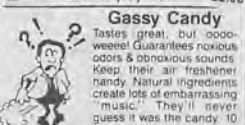
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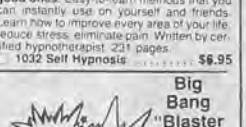
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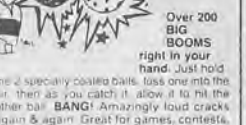
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 54)

worry about getting attacked by The Iron Sheik, DeBeers, and Al-Kaissie after your matches.

TIM LEONARD
Chicago

THE SUIT FITS

First off, congratulations are in order to Jerry "The King" Lawler for winning the AWA and World Class titles.

I am responding to the article in your February 1989 issue ("Jerry Lawler's Warning To *Inside Wrestling*: 'If Ronnie Garvin Wins My AWA Title—I'll Sue You!'"). Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks had no right to print that story. Lawler's privacy was invaded. If a magazine cost me something I worked 15 years for, I'd sue, too!

MICHAEL PALDINO
New Milford, NJ

GET RIDDA BLOWHARDS!

If it wasn't enough that we have to listen to those two blowhards Paul E. Dangerously and Jim Cornette mouthing off on TV, now we have to be treated to their "words of wisdom" in your otherwise fine magazine ("One

on One," February 1989).

I never liked Dangerously and Cornette, and I'm not about to take sides just because they're fighting each other. It's too bad that two great teams like the two versions of The Midnight Express have to get involved in this stupid feud over who is the *real* Midnight Express. I'm sure neither team really cares. They would probably rather wrestle The Road Warriors or The Fantastics for a tag team title.

Unfortunately, that's just the way things are in pro wrestling. Managers have too much control over the men they manage; they can use them to fight their own battles. If Dangerously and Cornette hate each other so much, why don't they get in the ring and wrestle each other? That would settle everything without getting these two teams involved.

Better yet, maybe Dangerously and Cornette could wrestle and seriously injure each other. That way, we'd never have to listen to them again. I'm one person who thinks wrestling would be a much better sport without them.

JOSHUA BELL
Harrisburg, PA □



If Jim Cornette and Paul E. Dangerously don't like one another, writes reader Joshua Bell, they should wrestle each other instead of involving the men they manage.



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RIC FLAIR

(Continued from page 47)

doubt The Varsity Club is the strongest cooperative in the NWA. With a fourth, it would be even stronger.

With Flair, it would be absolutely devastating.

Flair, however, denies he has contacted the Club. He also doesn't feel The Varsity Club is stronger than the Horsemen. But, as he sat on his imported leather couch with

a towel wrapped around his waist and his platinum blond hair slowly drying, Flair gave the impression of a man who has become frustrated.

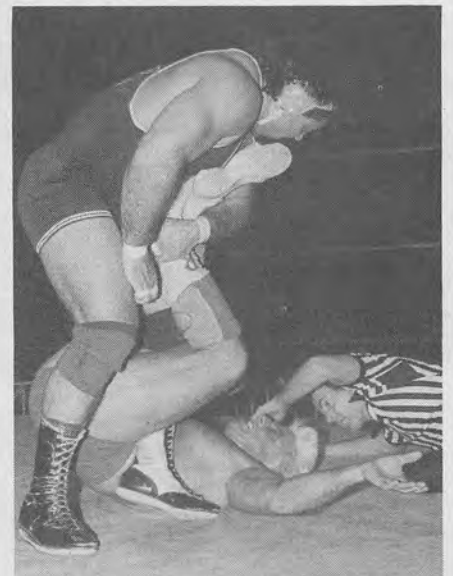
"Listen, The Four Horsemen still have it all," Flair said. "I'm the World champion and Barry's the U.S. champ. The only thing we *don't* have are the tag belts, and that's only because me and Barry don't have the time to go after those, too. We're like a tree that's been pruned, but we're still healthy as ever. But I must admit, defending the belt has become a grind. It gets tougher every year."

Nevertheless, Flair hasn't lost any of his substantial talent. His pinfall victory over Lex Luger at Starrcade '88, though controversial, will long be remembered as one of the greatest and most important of his career. Luger is considered by many to be the future of professional wrestling, the heir apparent to Flair's throne. Flair's ability to hold him off once again under such intense conditions was one of the biggest surprises of 1988.

But Flair's victory, which proved that he has aged very well and lost little of his ability, makes him even more attractive to Sullivan. The



Tommy Young asks Steiner if he's ready to submit to Flair's armbar (above); notice Flair holding the rope for leverage. Flair begs Steiner to back off (below). With his title defenses becoming more difficult, Flair may be looking for help outside the Horsemen.



Steiner executes a spinning toehold on Flair. Would the "Nature Boy" ever leave The Four Horsemen for The Varsity Club?

Varsity Club leader has made little secret of the fact that he is willing to spare no expense to build a solid organization. Signing Steve Williams was a tremendous coup, even though it meant losing Rick Steiner. Acquiring Flair would be the equivalent of the Los Angeles Kings trading for Wayne Gretzky.

"I think that's a proper analogy," Flair said with great pride. "I am to wrestling what Gretzky is to hockey, what Magic Johnson is to basketball. But I'm staying put. I go where I want, and where I want to be is with The Four Horsemen."

At that moment, the phone rang once again. Flair quickly picked it up and spoke quietly into the receiver. It was impossible to figure out who Flair was talking to, or what they were talking about, but it was clear the conversation was of great importance. Midway through the conversation, Flair was heard to utter the words "\$1-million" and, later, "only if you make me some guarantees."

Finally, after nearly a half hour, Flair hung up the phone. "Sorry to keep you," he said, "but that's the phone call I've been waiting for. We might be on the verge of seeing quite a bit of change in the NWA."

This time, when asked if the call was from Sullivan, Flair responded with a strong "no comment." When asked if he were about to join The Varsity Club, Flair's response was cryptically notable:

"They do a lot of things I like," he said. "I like the way Sullivan runs his organization, and I like Rotundo's attitude. I'm not sure I trust Doc [Steve Williams], but one thing's for sure: He's a hell of a wrestler. I'd be proud to be part of an organization like that. They've really got it on the ball."

Finally, Flair got up to leave. "It's time to go," he said.

And where was he going?

"We're going to school, baby. Whooooo!" he said as he closed the door behind him. □

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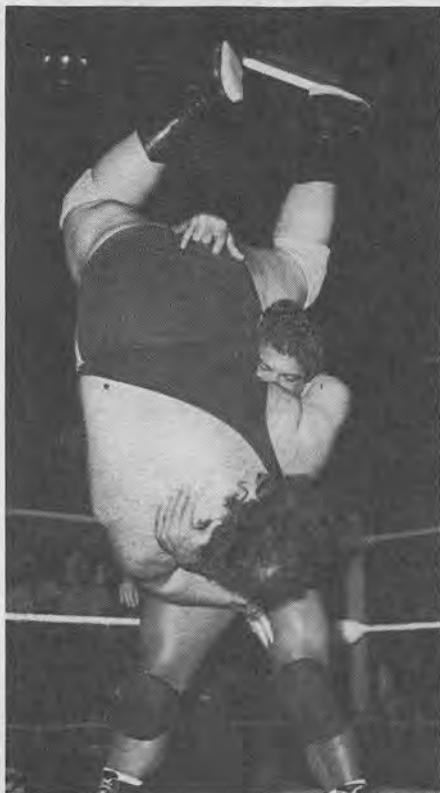
(Continued from page 49)

18-year veteran. "After all, I was really successful there. But things were getting a little stale. I got tired of wrestling Greg Valentine over and over again."

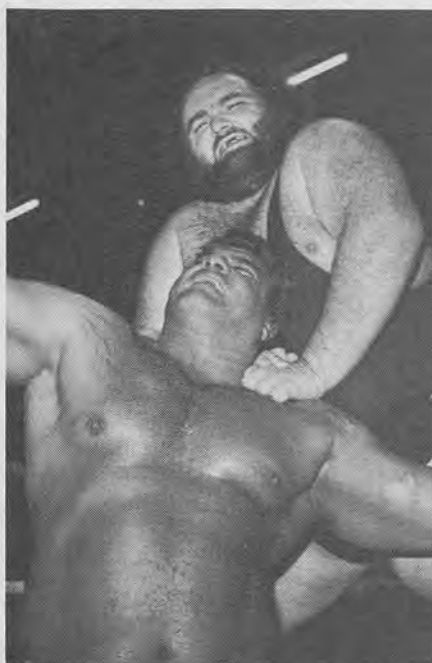
Muraco left the WWF in October and stepped up the conditioning program he had begun in the WWF several months earlier. By November, he had already become the top contender to Singh's North American title.

"Muraco is over the hill," boasted Singh, who had held the North American title since May 6, 1988, when he defeated Owen Hart. "The only reason he left the WWF in the first place is because he's just an old, washed-up, shell of what he used to be. He hasn't held a title since 1984! I'll take him on and beat him in record time."

Singh talked a good game, but Muraco's first match in Edmonton proved that "The Rock" was more than ready for his man. Despite suffering a cut forehead early in the match, Muraco battled back strongly. He had Singh pinned following a powerslam, but the referee opted to stop the match because of Muraco's excessive bleeding.



Don Muraco whips Makhan Singh across the ring (above) and slams him (bottom left). Singh retaliates with a nervehold (below). Muraco beat Singh for the North American title.



"Man, I'm glad I'm here," said Muraco as bandages were being applied to his forehead after the brutal bout. "I've *already* been promised a rematch in Medicine Hat. If I was still in the WWF, I'd never know if I was a contender or anything. Title shots seemed to be picked out of a hat or something. Now, I *know* I'm of champion-

ship caliber."

In Medicine Hat, Muraco was accompanied to the ring by Steve DiSalvo, the young bodybuilding sensation who has battled Singh's treachery many times in the past.

"Hey, I just know that Vulkan Singh will be at ringside," DiSalvo said before the title match. "Muraco and me hit it off from the day he first came here. I'm pledging my support to 'The Rock' in this match. There's no way Vulkan Singh will interfere with *me* around."

Vulkan Singh was in the corner for Makhan, and DiSalvo seconded Muraco to the ring. In the end, it was DiSalvo who would prove to be the difference. A battered Muraco was slumped in the ring corner as Singh prepared to splash him. But as Singh headed toward Muraco, DiSalvo pulled Muraco out of the corner, sending the burly giant crashing into the ringpost. Muraco rolled up Singh for the victory and the title.

"This is one of the greatest days of my career," said Muraco as he held his belt aloft for all to see. "If I was still in the WWF, I'd be wrestling Valentine

DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)



When Hulk Hogan swept Elizabeth up in his arms at the Survivor Series, he made Randy Savage extremely angry. No matter what happens between Hogan and Savage, Dave Rosenbaum thinks both men are terrible role models for children.

els for so many young children. The WWF perpetuates this image by using Hogan and Savage as merchandising tools, the height of irresponsibility.

There are so many things wrong with these two men. Hogan is an egotistical backstabber who doesn't hesitate to claw at Elizabeth on national TV, even though his wife and daughter might be home watching. Everybody in the world knows that Hogan is married with child; isn't he concerned about his image? Why does he ask Elizabeth to kiss him, albeit on the cheek?

Of course Hogan, though no longer champion, insists on stealing the spotlight at every opportu-

nity. And more: Hogan speaks nonsense (he's incoherent half the time), has two moves in his entire wrestling repertoire, couldn't care less about the fans, uses them for his own means, interferes in matches, accuses his opponents of doing the same thing, and can't maintain a friendship for more than six months at a time.

As for Savage, let's give him his due as an outstanding wrestler with a brilliant repertoire and unparalleled determination. There should be more competitors like him in this sport; wrestling would be much more exciting.

Savage, however, seems to think the world is out to get him, is overprotective of Elizabeth (he

was once extremely mean to her), doesn't hesitate to use foreign objects, and would cripple a man if it meant winning a title or protecting his beautiful manager. Like Hogan, he's virtually incoherent (what the heck *is* he saying half the time?) and unable to maintain a friendship (go ahead, name his tag team partners).

Well, I'm glad Hogan and Savage are wrestling each other. If ever two wrestlers were made for each other, here they are. Maybe they'll end each other's careers for good and we won't have to suffer through their constipated babbling anymore.

Where are Bruno and Backlund when we need them? We need a *real* WWF World champion, someone children can look up to. Someone adults can listen to and respect. The Hogan/Savage years are getting very tiresome.

The Honky Tonk Man, who seems to have become bored in the WWF, desperately needs a change of surroundings. Wrestling The Ultimate Warrior every night can become nervewracking. Honky Tonk made the serious mistake of issuing an open challenge at SummerSlam 88—a mistake that Jimmy Hart should've talked him out of—and lost the I-C belt because he was attacked before the bell. He's paid for it ever since.

The Warrior, by the way, is another example of negative WWF role models. This overblown muscleman can barely speak a word of English, and is, in fact, a poorer wrestler than Hogan. Other negative WWF role models who are fan favorites include Hacksaw Duggan (because of his constant interference with his wooden 2x4) and Jake Roberts (using his pet snake Damien to intimidate and frighten). □

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June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel. **Adonis & Ventura**, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blissie.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel**, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Tommy Rich**, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine**, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase**, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler**, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan**, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich**, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter**, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express**, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs**, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash**, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament**, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Dusty & Nikita**, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.



MAY 1987

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan**, UWF Tourney, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.**, Can-Am, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage**, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre**, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair**, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff**, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase**, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage**, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger**, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Andre**, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. **Hulk Hogan**, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. **Hogan vs. Andre**, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. **Savage & Hogan**, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior. **Sting**, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express. **Hogan**, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan. **Four Horsemen**, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

January 1989/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth**, Warriors, Sting.

February 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jake Roberts. **Luger**, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 16)

5. According to next-day reports of the match, Luger is: (a) 15 minutes away from winning the title; (b) a match away from winning the title; (c) has already won the title in a parallel universe; (d) a large but unspecified amount of time away from winning the title.

Luger has run out of excuses at the same time critics and fans have run out of patience. Consider Luger's brief career:

As a natural muscleman, he is given extensive mind-control and martial arts training by Hiro Matsuda, an acknowledged master of oriental self-defense. He leaves Matsuda and hires Bob Roop, a solid pro and former amateur great, as his trainer. From there he is taken into the fold of The Four Horsemen, where he is able to tap the minds of four of wrestling's greatest strategists. Name one other wrestler who has been given such versatile training. Still, though his swagger remains and his ego flies unchecked,

Luger has been unable to parlay them into the NWA World title.

Flair is a brilliant coward; Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson were (and are) burly mercenaries; Barry Windham remains a pandering twit. But Luger's dominant physical traits, vast wrestling education, and numerous opportunities, combined with a fierce inability to win the NWA title, make him, of all the Horsemen past and present, a pitiful gelding.

●

Over to the lighter side: *New York Newsday* recently featured a story on 51-year-old cab driver Eddie Coyle, who, after 18 years of marriage and five children, decided he'd be happier spinning out the rest of his years as a woman. "It was a madness that was driving me insane," Coyle says, regarding the impulses that forced him to secretly dress in female clothing most of his life. "It was difficult to actually go through with it, but I'm much happier now," a

less-hairier Liz Coyle reports since undergoing the operation that changed his gender.

An interesting story. An endearing, *you-never-know-where-life-will-take-you* kind of story. It got me to thinking:

Who among today's top male grapplers would be happier as a woman?

The three most obvious candidates, of course, are Jerry Lawler, Ronnie Garvin, and Baron Von Raschke, all seen on this page indulging their unusual fantasies. Could it be all three would prefer lives as former men?

Satisfying my own curiosity, I had a staff artist render a rough drawing of Dusty Rhodes dressed in a pink camisole and matching go-go boots. I showed the offending picture to the unmistakably masculine Al Perez, who remarked, "It's enough to send a sinner back to church."

In the interests of good taste, I then set fire to the drawing. □



Baron Von Raschke (left), Ronnie Garvin (center), and Jerry Lawler (right) have all dressed as women to trick their opponents. Ellner wonders if these men didn't have other intentions.

Wrestling

Now is the time to complete your collection of **SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING**, the magazine jam-packed with action photography and in-depth stories. Don't miss out on an issue. Quantities are limited, so order today! [NOTE: Cover stories noted in **BOLDFACE**.]

September 1979/Flair-McDaniel, Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.

February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.

May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.

October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.

January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.

June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.

September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.

December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humerpindk.

January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.

April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Brisco, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.

May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.

June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.

July 1983/Valiant-Humerpindk, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!

December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.

January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.

October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.

October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.

December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.

January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.

February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.

March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade '86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.

April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.

May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.

June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.

July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.

August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.

September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.

October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourney.

November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Sheepherders, Condrey.

December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card

January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.

February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.

March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.

April 1988/1987 in Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.

May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.

June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.

July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.

August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.

September 1988/Predictions Through 1998, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.

October 1988/Midnight Rockers, Sting, Taylor, Koloff, Hot Young Lions.

November 1988/R&R Express, Honky Tonk, Von Erichs, Great American Bash.

December 1988/Warriors, Samoan SWAT Team, Hart, Andre, Presidential Wrestlers.

January 1989/Jake-Cheryl-Rude, Sting, Lawler, Flair, Savage's career.

February 1989/The Champions in '89, Duggan, Roberts, 1989 datebook.

March 1989/1988 in Pictures, Taylor, Simmons, Wrestlers Then & Now.

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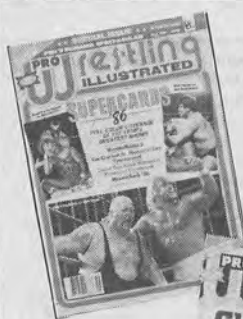
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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 18)

wants to make of it," Steamboat said as we strolled around the gym. "It's a very ordered life. I'm very much in control. Not at all like being in the ring. Things can get crazy in there.

"But I'm also a competitor; it's in my blood. I've done a little acting, and that's proven to be a great challenge, but there is nothing like battle in the ring—especially against someone like Flair. I'm in top condition. I work out every day, a blend of weightlifting, running, swimming, and biking. If Flair thinks I'm not ring sturdy, he should try training with my martial arts instructor, a ninth-degree black belt. One hour with him is more demanding than any wrestling match Flair's ever been in."

Even if Steamboat's acting ca-
Italian Stallion armlocks Arn Anderson. Liz Hunter thinks hard-working, unrecognized wrestlers like Stallion should get more shots at the big time.

reer should lead him to an Academy Award, he will forever be remembered for doing his best work inside a wrestling ring. Battles against Flair, Greg Valentine, and Randy Savage are already the stuff of wrestling legend. Steamboat is often referred to as the greatest wrestler to never win a world title.

"I'd be lying if I said it didn't bother me," says the man who several times came within a hair's breadth of defeating Flair. "I'll watch wrestling on television and I'll think about it. I'll get those old urges, those gnawing feelings in my gut. You know, the feelings that say, 'Get in there! You can do it!' Then the talk comes up about a match with Flair and—well, I can't deny that I'm thinking seriously about it!

"This time the timing would be perfect. I'm in great shape, and



Flair is ripe for the picking. I can see winning and defending the belt for a year, then going back to the gym and relaxing again, maybe do a little acting. I sure would like to win that belt."

Comfortably reclined into the recesses of his cushiony leather sofa, Steamboat looks the part of a movie star. Toned, tanned, and terrific is how any Hollywood agent would describe him.

Imagine how terrific he'd look with a jeweled belt around his waist!

Memo to Ted Turner and Jim Crockett: Men like The Italian Stallion are the meat and potatoes of your federation, tireless grapplers who wrestle hard day in and day out. They have earned the opportunity to appear on major cards. Yet Stallion was excluded from the most recent Starrcade.

"I go where the contracts tell me to go and wrestle hard for a win each and every night," Stallion said. "I'm just glad to be here."

In this age of money-mongering prima donnas, a brief fling in the nationwide spotlight would go a long way to reward a work ethic sorely missing in most rings these days.

Last month's column on Don Muraco's move from the WWF to Stampede generated a lot of incredulous mail. *I give Muraco two months before he realizes the wilds of Canada is a poor substitute for the lights of Broadway*, wrote one reader. Well, it took Muraco less than two weeks to make his bold move pay off. On December 9, the magnificent one defeated Makhan Singh to capture the North American title. "I've rediscovered my value as a professional," Muraco told me. "Wrestlers up here take the sport—not just their paycheck—seriously. It's a pleasure to have a strap back around my waist." ☐

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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1— RANDY SAVAGE
WWF World champion | 4— BARRY WINDHAM
U.S. heavyweight champion | 8— STING
No. 3 contender: NWA title | 12— RICK STEINER
NWA TV champion |
| 2— RIC FLAIR
NWA World champion | 5— LEX LUGER
No. 2 contender: NWA title | 9— KERRY VON ERICH
No. 1 contender: AWA/WCCW titles | 13— ERIC EMBRY
WCCW light heavyweight champ |
| 3— JERRY LAWLER
AWA World/WCCW champion | 6— HULK HOGAN
No. 3 contender: WWF title | 10— BAD NEWS BROWN
No. 2 contender: WWF title | 14— DON MURACO
Stampede North American champ |
| | 7— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
WWF Intercontinental champ | 11— BAM BAM BIGELOW
No. 1 contender: U.S. title | 15— EDDIE GILBERT
No. 4 contender: NWA title |

NWA

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 4— STING
260, Venice Beach, CA | 8— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 12— RON SIMMONS
260, Perry, GA |
| 2— BARRY WINDHAM
263, Sweetwater, TX | 5— EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, TN | 9— JUNKYARD DOG
305, Charlotte, NC | 13— DICK MURDOCH
280, Waxahachie, TX |
| 3— LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL | 6— BAM BAM BIGELOW
368, Mt. Laurel, NJ | 10— MIKE ROTUNDO
245, Syracuse, NY | 14— KEVIN SULLIVAN
252, Boston, MA |
| | 7— RICK STEINER
248, Detroit, MI | 11— STEVE WILLIAMS
265, Norman, OK | 15— AL PEREZ
238, Tampa, FL |

AWA

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1— JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN | 4— WAHOO McDANIEL
280, Midland, TX | 8— COL. DeBEERS
248, Cape Town, S. Africa | 12— BRICKHOUSE BROWN
225, Winter Haven, FL |
| 2— GREG GAGNE
220, Robbinsdale, MN | 5— SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC | 9— DUTCH MANTEL
224, Oil Trough, TX | 13— RICK MORTON
228, Memphis, TN |
| 3— KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX | 6— IRON SHEIK
262, Teheran, Iran | 10— MANNY FERNANDEZ
245, El Paso, TX | 14— TATSUMI FUJINAMI
210, Tokyo, Japan |
| | 7— JEFF JARRETT
200, Hendersonville, TN | 11— ICEMAN PARSONS
245, St. Louis, MO | 15— MANDO GUERRERO
225, Mexico City, Mexico |

WWF

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 4— HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA | 8— HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY | 12— TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL |
| 2— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
280, Queens, NY | 5— BIG BOSSMAN
348, Cobb County, GA | 9— TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE | 13— JAKE ROBERTS
246, Stone Mountain, GA |
| 3— BAD NEWS BROWN
280, New York, NY | 6— ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France | 10— KING HAKU
270, Tonga | 14— DINO BRAVO
256, Montreal, Quebec |
| | 7— THE HONKY TONK MAN
255, Memphis, TN | 11— CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN | 15— RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN |

MOST POPULAR

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1— HULK HOGAN
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular | 4— ULTIMATE WARRIOR
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular | 8— JAKE ROBERTS
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular | 12— JEFF JARRETT
Last month: No. 14 Most Popular |
| 2— RANDY SAVAGE
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular | 5— LEX LUGER
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular | 9— HACKSAW DUGGAN
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular | 13— HERCULES
Last month: No. 12 Most Popular |
| 3— STING
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular | 6— RICK STEINER
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular | 10— KERRY VON ERICH
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular | 14— DON MURACO
Last month: unrated |
| | 7— DUSTY RHODES
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular | 11— BAM BAM BIGELOW
Last month: No. 15 Most Popular | 15— SGT. SLAUGHTER
Last month: No. 13 Most Popular |

MOST HATED

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1— BIG BOSSMAN
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated | 4— ANDRE THE GIANT
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated | 8— ROBERT FULLER
Last month: unrated | 12— KEVIN SULLIVAN
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated |
| 2— RIC FLAIR
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated | 5— RICK RUDE
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated | 9— ICEMAN PARSONS
Last month: No. 14 Most Hated | 13— COL. DeBEERS
Last month: No. 11 Most Hated |
| 3— BARRY WINDHAM
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated | 6— BAD NEWS BROWN
Last month: No. 13 Most Hated | 10— STEVE WILLIAMS
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated | 14— DINO BRAVO
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated |
| | 7— MIKE ROTUNDO
Last month: No. 12 Most Hated | 11— JERRY LAWLER
Last month: No. 11 Most Popular | 15— THE HONKY TONK MAN
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated |

TAG TEAMS

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1— THE ROAD WARRIORS
NWA World tag team champions | 6— THE WARLORD & THE BARBARIAN
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title | 11— JERRY STUBBS & TONY ANTHONY
No. 1 contenders: CWF tag team title |
| 2— DEMOLITION
WWF World tag team champions | 7— THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM
World Class tag team champions | 12— JACQUES & RAYMOND ROUGEAU
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title |
| 3— PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND
AWA World tag team champions | 8— DENNIS CONDREY & RANDY ROSE
No. 3 contenders: NWA tag team title | 13— THE HART FOUNDATION
No. 4 contenders: WWF tag team title |
| 4— STAN LANE & BOBBY EATON
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title | 9— THE BRITISH BULLDOGS
Stampede International tag team champs | 14— THE CUBAN COMMANDOS
No. 1 contenders: Stampede tag team title |
| 5— STEVE WILLIAMS & KEVIN SULLIVAN
U.S. tag team champions | 10— ROBERT FULLER & JIMMY GOLDEN
CWA tag team champions | 15— THE RPMs
No. 1 contenders: CWA tag team title |

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

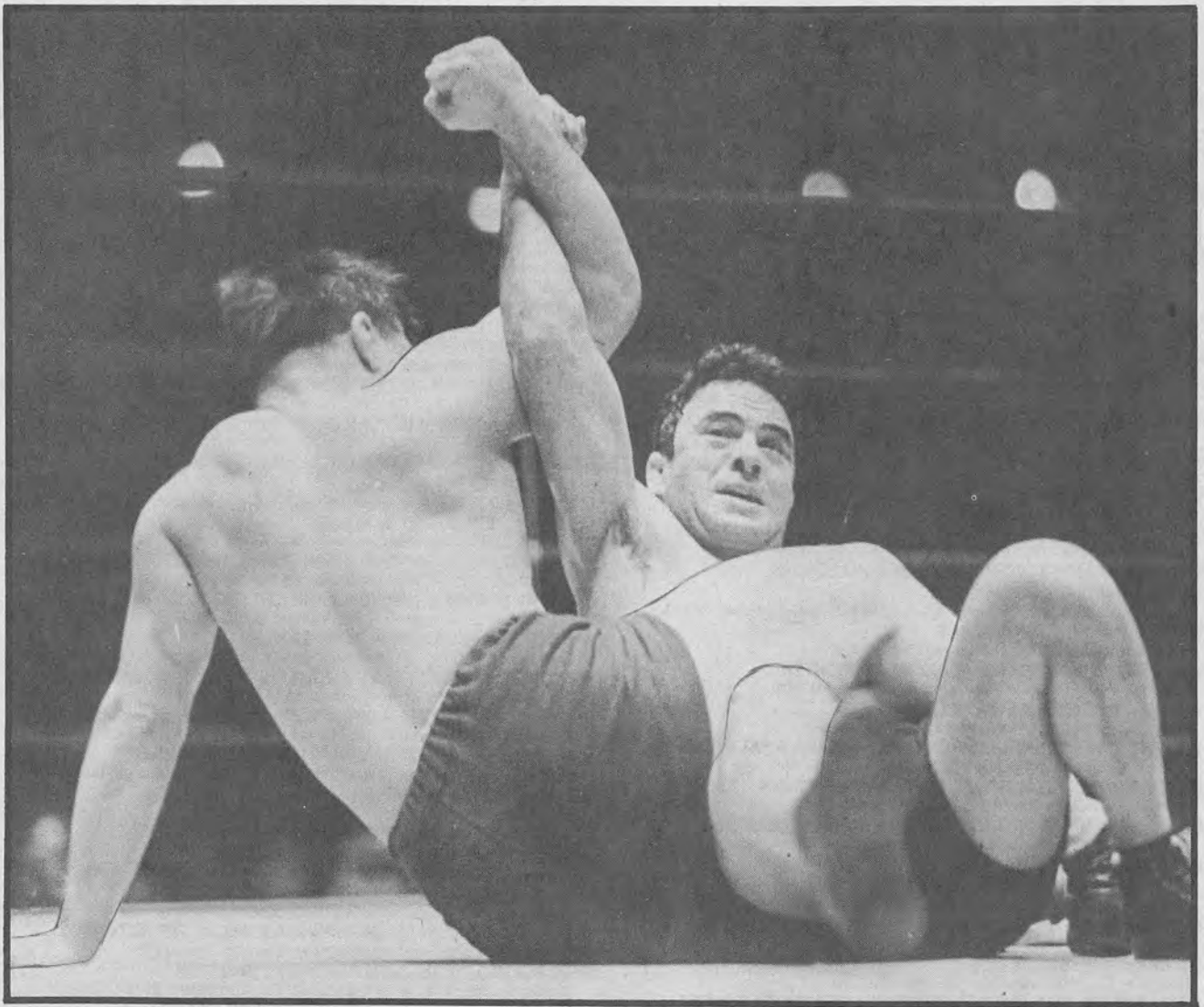
For period ended January 1, 1989

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

- ALL-CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION:**
CHAVO GUERRERO
(September 23, 1988; from Jack Armstrong; Lancaster, CA)
- ALL-CALIFORNIA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
PETER MAIVIA JR. & MANDO GUERRERO
(September 24, 1988; from The Lords of Discipline; Victorville, CA)
- ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
TAKASHI KAWADA & SAMPSON FUYUKI
(September 15, 1988; from Shinichi Nakano & Shunji Cakano; Tokyo, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**
(April 14, 1988; from Bruiser Brody; Sendai, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
JUMBO TSURUTA & YOSHIKI YATSU
(July 31, 1988; from Stan Hansen & Terry Gordy; Hakodate, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI**
(January 3, 1987; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: STAN HANSEN**
(July 27, 1988; from Genichiro Tenryu; Nagano, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPION: TITLE HELD UP**
(most recently held by Chigusa Nagayo)
- ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MIKA KOMATSU**
(July 10, 1988; from Yumi Ogura; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada)
- ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
MIKA KOMATSU & YUMI OGURA
(August 25, 1988; from Yumiko Hotta & Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Kawasaki, Japan)
- * **AWA TV CHAMPION: GREG GAGNE**
(December 13, 1988; from Ron Garvin; Chicago, IL)
- AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER**
(November 26, 1988; from Madusa Miceli; Bloomington, MN)
- AWA WORLD CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER**
(May 9, 1988; from Curt Hennig; Memphis, TN)
- AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**
(March 19, 1988; from The Midnight Rockers; Las Vegas, NV)
- BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: JOHNNY SMITH**
(June 24, 1988; from Chris Benoit; Calgary, Alberta)
- CONTINENTAL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TOM PRICHARD**
(October 3, 1988; tournament final over Tony Anthony; Birmingham, AL)
- CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
THE BULLET & BRAD ARMSTRONG
(November 28, 1988; from Jerry Stubbs & Tony Anthony; Birmingham, AL)
- CONTINENTAL U.S. JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DAN DAVIS**
(November 2, 1988; from Ken Wayne; Harriman, TN)
- * **CWA CHAMPION: SID VICIOUS**
(December 10, 1988; from Brian Lee; Memphis, TN)
- CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ROBERT FULLER & JIMMY GOLDEN**
(November 7, 1988; from Cactus Jack & Gary Young; Memphis, TN)
- * **FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION: MIKE GRAHAM**
(December 25, 1988; from The Terminator; Tampa, FL)
- FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TYREE PRIDE**
(September 24, 1988; from Denny Brown; Nassau, Bahamas)
- FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
THE NASTY BOYS
(November 5, 1988; from Johnny Ace & The Terminator; Nassau, Bahamas)
- IWGP CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI**
(June 24, 1988; over Riki Choshu; Osaka, Japan)
- IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
MASA SAITO & RIKI CHOSHU
(June 10, 1988; from Tatsumi Fujinami & Kengo Kimura; Hiroshima, Japan)
- IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHIRO KOSHINAKA**
(June 24, 1988; from Owen Hart; Osaka, Japan)
- * **NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
THE ROAD WARRIORS & GENICHIRO TENRYU
(December 7, 1988; via Animal's victory over Dusty Rhodes; Chattanooga, TN)
- * **NWA TV CHAMPION: RICK STEINER**
(December 26, 1988; from Mike Rotundo; Norfolk, VA)
- NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR**
(November 26, 1987; from Ronnie Garvin; Chicago, IL)
- NATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JULES STRONGBOW**
(by NWF officials' decision)
- * **PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: TOP GUN**
(December 25, 1988; from The Grappler; Portland, OR)
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
THE GRAPPLER & ABUGHADIEN
(October 29, 1988; from Steve Doll & Scott Peterson; Portland, OR)
- PWF CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN**
(July 27, 1988; from Genichiro Tenryu; Nagano, Japan)
- PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUMBO TSURUTA & YOSHIKI YATSU**
(August 30, 1988; from Genichiro Tenryu & Ashura Hara; Osaka, Japan)
- * **STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: DON MURACO**
(December 9, 1988; from Mahan Singh; Medicine Hat, Alberta)
- * **STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
THE BRITISH BULLDOGS
(December 7, 1988; from Jerry Morrow & The Cuban Assassin; Calgary, Alberta)
- U.S. CHAMPION: BARRY WINDHAM**
(May 13, 1988; tournament final over Nikita Koloff; Houston, TX)
- * **U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KEVIN SULLIVAN & STEVE WILLIAMS**
(December 26, 1988; from The Fantastics; Norfolk, VA)
- WESTERN STATES CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSKO**
(January 24, 1988; from Barry Windham; Uniondale, NY)
- * **WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER**
(December 13, 1988; from Kerry Von Erich; Chicago, IL)
- * **WORLD CLASS LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY**
(December 13, 1988; from Jeff Jarrett; Chicago, IL)
- WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM**
(October 17, 1988; from Michael Hayes & Steve Cox; Ft. Worth, TX)
- WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: ICEMAN PARSONS**
(August 5, 1988; from Kerry Von Erich, subbing for Kevin Von Erich; Dallas, TX)
- WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: JASON THE TERRIBLE**
(November 19, 1988; from TNT; Carolina, Puerto Rico)
- WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
MIGUEL PEREZ JR. & HURRICANE CASTILLO JR.
(October 15, 1988; from Bobby Jagers & Dan Kroffat; Bayamon; Puerto Rico)
- WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: EL PROPHET**
(November 16, 1988; from Invader III; Catayno, Puerto Rico)
- WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
(January 30, 1988; from Miguel Perez Jr.; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: RICKY SANTANA**
(August 6, 1988; from Super Black Ninja; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BART & BRAD BATTEN**
(November 12, 1988; from Ron & Chicky Starr; Caguas, Puerto Rico)
- * **WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON**
(December 18, 1988; from Ronnie Garvin; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER**
(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)
- WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
(August 29, 1988; from The Honky Tonk Man; New York, NY)
- WWF WORLD CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE**
(March 27, 1988; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Atlantic City, NJ)
- WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DEMOLITION**
(March 27, 1988; from Rick Martel & Tito Santana; Atlantic City, NJ)
- WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN**
(October 7, 1988; from Sherri Martel; Paris, France)
- WWF WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN**
(June 8, 1988; from The Jumping Bomb Angels; Omiya City, Japan)

Blast From The Past ***This Month In Wrestling History***

“THE SECOND ASCENT OF THE LONDOS LEGEND”

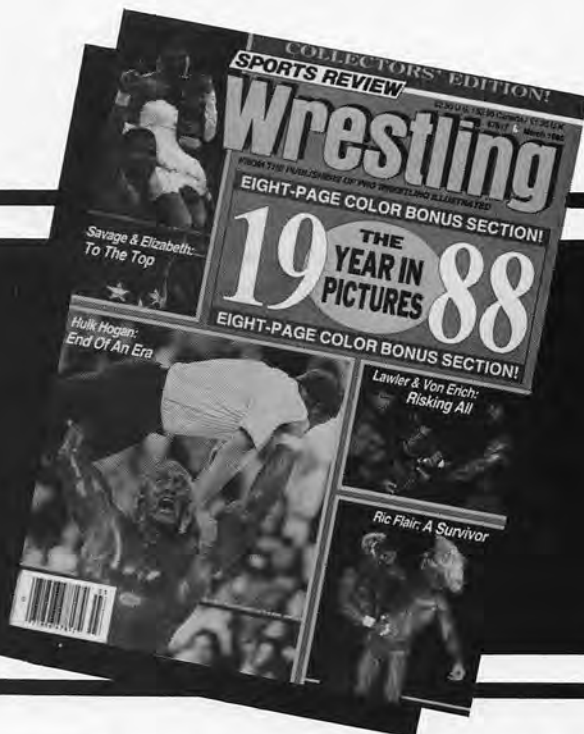


JIM LONDOS
vs.
ERNIE DUSEK
February 5, 1934

Even today, the skills of the immortal Jim Londos are considered a standard by which scientific wrestlers are judged. Londos showed why he was one of the best pure wrestlers of his time during this classic Madison Square Garden event against rugged Ernie Dusek that marked Londos' return to the legendary arena after a three-year absence. "The Greek Adonis" defeated the game Dusek in a bout that helped make him the top contender for the NWA title, which he held with pride in 1930. Four months later, on June 24, Londos regained the coveted belt from Jim Browning, a victory that cemented his reputation as one of the greatest wrestlers who ever lived.

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